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Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

West Bengal Legislative Assembly

Second Session, 1948

(10th February to 30th March, 1948.)

The 10th, 13th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, February, 1948 and 3rd, 4th and 5th March, 1948.

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1948

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL.

GOVERNOR

His Excellency CHAKRABORTY SRI RAJAGOPALACHARI.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

1. The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY, Minister-in-charge of the Home Department excluding the Police and Transport Branches and of the Department of Health and Local Self-Government excluding the Jails Branch.

*2. The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER, Minister-in-charge of the Departments of Finance, Commerce and Industries.

*3. The Hon'ble Sri RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI, Minister-in-charge of the Education Department.

4. The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA, Minister-in-charge of the Department of Works, Buildings and Communications.

5. The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR, Minister-in-charge of the Judicial and Legislative Departments.

6. The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BURMAN, Minister-in-charge of the Land and Land Revenue Department.

7. The Hon'ble Sri KALIPADA MUKHERJEE, Minister-in-charge of the Labour Department.

8. The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR, Minister-in-charge of the Department of Forests and Fisheries.

9. The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR, Minister-in-charge of the Department of Irrigation and Waterways.

*10. The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN, Minister-in-charge of the Department of Civil Supplies.

11. The Hon'ble Sri NIKUNJA BEHARY MAITY, Minister-in-charge of the Department of Co-operation, Credit, Relief and Rehabilitation.

12. The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA, Minister-in-charge of the Department of Agriculture and Veterinary.

*13. The Hon'ble Sri KIRAN SANKAR ROY, Minister-in-charge of the Police and the Transport Branches of the Home Department and of the Jails Branch of the Department of Health and Local Self-Government.

N.B.—The Hon'ble Ministers marked with an asterisk are not members of the Assembly.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

Sri ASHUTOSH MALLICK.

SECRETARY.

Sri AJITA RANJAN MUKHERJEA, M.SC., B.L.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Sri CHARU CHANDRA CHAKRABARTY, B.L.

REGISTRAR.

Janab RAFIQUR RAHMAN, M.A., B.L.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Abdul Wahid Sarkar, Janab. [Hooghly.]
Abdur Rahman, Janab A. F. M. [24-Parganas North-East.]
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Janab. [Muslim Chamber of Commerce.]
Abul Hashem, Janab. [Burdwan.]

B

Bandopadhyaya, Sri Pramatha Nath. [Midnapore South-West.]
Banerjee, Sri Sibnath. [Howrah (Registered Factories).]
Banerjee, Sri Susil Kumar. [Howrah.]
Banerji, Dr. Suresh *Chandra. [Calcutta and Suburbs (Registered Factories).]
Burman, The Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan. [Jalpaiguri-*cum*-Siliguri.]
Basu, Sri Hemanta Kumar. [Calcutta North.]
Basu, Sri Jyoti. [Railway Trade Union.]
Bhandari, Sri Charu Chandra. [24-Parganas North-West.]
Bhattacharyya, Sri Shyamapada. [Murshidabad.]
Bose, Sri Satish Chandra. [Calcutta South.]
Brahmin, Sri Ratanlal. [Darjeeling Sadar.]

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*Parliamentary Secretary.

C

Chakravarty, Sri Satish Chandra. [Northern Districts Municipal.]
Choudhury, Sri Annada Prosad. [Jhargram-*cum*-Ghatal.]
Clarke, Mr. C. E. [Calcutta Trades Association, Indian Jute Mills Association, Indian Tea Association and Indian Mining Association.]

D

Das, Srijukta Bina. [Calcutta.]
Das, Sri Radha Nath. [Hooghly North-East.]
Das Gupta, Sri Khagendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri-*cum*-Siliguri.]
*__Dass__, Sri Kanai Lal. [Burdwan Central.]
De, Sri Kanai Lal. [Bankura West.]
Dolui, Sri Harendra Nath. [Jhargram-*cum*-Ghatal.]
Dutta, Sri Sukumar. [Hooghly South-West.]
Dutt-Mazumdar, The Hon'ble Sri Niharendu. [Barrackpore (Registered Factories).]

G

Ganguli, Sri Bepin Behari. [24-Parganas Municipal.]
Gayen, Sri Arabinda. [Howrah.]
Ghose, Sri A. K. [Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.]
Ghose, Sri Bimal Comar. [Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.]
Ghosh, Dr. P. C. [Birbhum.]
Gomes, Mr. D. [Calcutta-*cum*-Presidency Division.]
Gupta, Sri J. C. [Calcutta South Central.]
Gurung, Sri Damber Singh. [Darjeeling.]

H

Haldar, Sri Kuber Chand. [Murshidabad.]
Himmatsingka, Sri P. D. [Indian Chamber of Commerce.]
Husan Ara Begum, Janab. [Calcutta.]

I

Ilias Ali Mollah, Janab. [24-Parganas Central.]

J

Jalan, The Hon'ble Sri Iswar Das. [Calcutta West.]
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Janab. [24-Parganas South.]

K

Kazem Ali Mirza, Shahibzada Kawan Jah Saiyid, Janab. [Murshidabad South-West.]
Khuda Bukhsh, Janab Md. [Berhampore.]

M

Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Janab. [Malda.]
Mahanty, Sri Charu Chandra. [Midnapore Central.]

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*Parliamentary Secretary.

Mahtab, Sri Uday Chand, Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan. [Burdwan Land holders.]
Maiti, The Hon'ble Sri Nikunja Behari. [Burdwan Division North Municipal.]
*Majhi, Sri Nishapati. [Birbhum.]
Majumdar, The Hon'ble Sri Bhupati. [Hooghly-*cum*-Howrah Municipal.]
Mal, Sri Iswar Chandra. [Midnapore South-East.]
Mallick, Sri Ashutosh. [Bankura West.]
Mandal, Sri Annadaprasad. [Burdwan North-West.]
*Mandal, Sri Bankubehari. [Burdwan North-West.]
*Mandal, Sri Krishna Prasad. [Midnapore Central.]
Martuza, Reza Chowdhury, Janab. [Jangipur.]
Mohammad Rafique Shaik, J. P. [Calcutta North.]
Mohammad Sharif Khan, Janab. [Hooghly-*cum*-Howrah Municipal.]
Molla Mohammad Abdul Halim, Janab. [Nabadwip.]
Mookerjee, The Hon'ble Sri Kalipada. [Calcutta East.]
Mudassir Hossain, Janab. [Birbhum.]
Muhammad Idris, Janab. [Howrah.]
Muhammad Qumruddin, Janab. [Barrackpore Municipal.]
Muhammad Siddique, Dr. Syed. [Bankura.]
Mukherji, Sri Dhirendra Narayan. [Hooghly North-East.]
Murarka, Sri Basantlal. [Calcutta Central.]
Musharruff Hossain, Janab. [Jalpaiguri-*cum*-Darjeeling.]

N

*Naskar, Sri Ardhendu Sekhar. [24-Parganas North-West.]
Naskar, The Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East.]

P

Panja, The Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath. [Burdwan Central.]
Pentony, Mr. L. R. [Anglo-Indian.]
Platel, Mr. R. E. [Anglo-Indian.]
Poddar, Sri Anandilal. [Marwari Association.]
*Pramanik, Sri Rajani Kanta. [Midnapore East.]

R

Ray, Sri Kamal Krishna. [Bankura East.]
Ricketts, Mrs. E. M. [Anglo-Indian.]
Roy, The Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra. [University.]
Roy, Sri Jajneswar. [Jalpaiguri-*cum*-Siliguri.]

S

*Sen, Sri Debendra Nath. [Colliery (Coal Mines).]
Serajuddin Ahammad, Janab. [Midnapore.]
Shamsul Huq, Janab. [Calcutta South.]
Sinha, The Hon'ble Sri Bimal Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East.]

W

Walker, Mr. J. R. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
Wilks, Mr. G. C. D. [Anglo-Indian.]

Z

Zaman, Janab A. M. A. [Hooghly-*cum*-Serampore (Registered Factories).]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

THE WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Official Report of the Second Session, 1948.

Volume II—No. 1.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 10th February, 1948, at 2-30 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 61 members.

Obituary on Mahatmaji's Death

Mr. SPEAKER: Friends, we are meeting today under the shadow of a great catastrophe which has unfortunately fallen over our country. I regret to announce that Mahatmaji is no more. It was inconceivable that we shall have to mourn this most unfortunate loss so soon. Mahatmaji has disappeared from the scene at a time when he was required most by this country. We have achieved freedom, but we required his assistance in order to tide over the great difficulties which have come in the stream of our political emancipation, but God willed it otherwise. He always in his life time said that he was entirely in the hands of God and, so long as God desired, he would remain in this world; but the moment He willed otherwise, he would disappear. It seems to have come out true, and it so happens that this seems to be the way of great Incarnations of God. We know that Shri Krishna, after His mission was fulfilled, did not die a natural death. He died by the arrow of a hunter. Shri Ramchandra when His mission was fulfilled did not die a natural death. He was drowned in the river Saraju. In the case of Mahatmaji it seems God willed it that after the political emancipation of our country his mission ended, and God has taken him away. Mahatmaji's was a personality the parallel of which can hardly be found in the history of mankind. There have been political leaders who have brought about political emancipation of countries, but they had nothing to do with religious principles. There were religious leaders who brought about revolutions in human thought in mankind by their teachings, but they had very little to do with political emancipation or political struggles and movements of their countries. It was Mahatmaji, and, I believe, Mahatmaji alone, who combined both religion and politics. He led the Congress movements for emancipation of this country not on the usual principles of violence, untruth and revenge, but he led those movements on principles of non-violence, truth, amity and love. And this is a unique achievement which will be for ever remembered in this world. High tributes which have been paid to him throughout the whole world bear eloquent testimony to the high esteem in which he was held not only by the people of this country but by the people of the world. Though he is no more with us, his teachings, that he has preached throughout his whole life are with us, and that will serve us as a beacon light to guide us to the true destiny to which our country is destined to reach.

So far as Mahatmaji's death is concerned, it is not a question of sending any condolence to the bereaved family, because today the entire nation

is bereaved: he was not a member of a particular family, but the entire Indian nation was his family, but still with your permission I shall convey a message of condolence to the members of the family of Mahatmaji.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today we meet under the shadow of a great calamity. The Father of the Nation, Gandhiji, Bapuji, is no more. He is no more in this world to guide us, to advise us, to indicate our duties and responsibilities. No more shall his mortal voice ring through this torn and tired world asking humanity to follow the path of truth and non-violence. Yet he lives, as he himself said, "Death is only a big change in life and nothing more". Yes, he lives; his spirit is with us, that deathless spirit which will ever guide this country and the whole world to its destined goal. Gandhiji's life was one of constant strife. Twenty years ago in 1928 he wrote me, "I am vain enough to think that I shall still lead my country to freedom, but the time is not yet". Throughout his life he fought for the freedom of his country and for the freedom of humanity, never losing faith in his mission. His was not a fight with the sword to destroy. He loves his enemies and eventually gave them his life and in doing so vanquished the forces of evil to fulfil his mission in life. Today the whole world mourns the passing of Gandhiji. His death is a loss to all men from one end of the world to the other. The poisonous fumes of hatred darkened the atmosphere and the spirit of violence has at last roused itself and desecrated the spirit of man. Gandhiji's teachings are ever, more than even, necessary. It was his conviction that the world is tired of violence, that it would at last take to his path of non-violence and truth. "Non-violence", he said; "is the first article of my faith; it is also the last article of my creed". At no time in the history of civilisation was this article of faith more vitally necessary for peace than now. Today in the name of democracy freedom of the individual is suppressed—the people, the individual, is forgotten. There is no freedom for the common man. We now utter slogans, we repeat shibboleths, we declare our affiliation to parties and groups. We have neglected to develop the moral concepts of the individual. We have denied him the freedom that is his birth-right. We have to restore to him his individuality even. Let him be free even as Gandhiji was free through living a life of non-violence and truth. Gandhiji was a free man inside out. Starting his life with the usual frailties and imperfections of an ordinary individual mortal, weighed down with fears and temptations, passions and prejudices of human beings, he succeeded in changing his whole personality by years of rigorous concentration on a few simple emotionally significant ideas, years of strict self-discipline and intensive self-training. He thus developed within himself a peace of mind and a freedom which was ever eager to recognise freedom in others. It is said that he was a saint amongst statesmen and a statesman amongst saints, but, above all, he was a Man amongst men. As a man (with a big M) he was bold enough to confess his error and he withdrew his non-co-operation movement after the Chauri Chaura incident calling it a Himalayan blunder. Who in his place as a leader of men would have the courage to own his mistake?

In March, 1934, the late Dr. Ansari and myself approached him with a request to withdraw his Civil Disobedience movement because in our view the country needed another programme and that those who did not subscribe to the Civil Disobedience programme should be allowed to enter Assemblies and work inside them. In a characteristic way Gandhiji said, and it was Gandhiji alone who could have said it: "I still believe that my scheme is the correct one for leading the country to freedom, but as I am an honest man and believe in the correctness of my scheme, I will not say that you are not also sincere in your conviction and, therefore, I have decided to let you have the opportunity of putting your scheme into practice. It may be that after a time you will come to my way of thinking or I shall be converted into yours." That is a bold statement which could only be made by Gandhiji as Gandhiji himself had said "You must have freedom to be free".

Misunderstanding, jealousies, rivalries, suspicion and distrust prevail in the world today. His teachings are forgotten. People suffer from persecution complex. Hate and distrust—sectional, communal and otherwise—raise their ugly heads and cause delusion in the minds of men. How else can we explain this cruel and inhuman act? How else can be explained this act of barbarism which has deprived the world of the Prince of Peace of our times?

"The manner of Gandhiji's death is a grim and urgent reminder of the forces of hate and violence that are at work in our country and which imperil the freedom of the nation and darken our fair name." That is the resolution of the Government of India. These forces must be swiftly controlled and suppressed. I have no doubt whatsoever that the Indian people as a whole demand that prompt action should be taken and our duty performed. The Government is determined to deal with such forces of evil with determination and courage. We ask for co-operation of all right-thinking people in our efforts to prevent further mishaps, but the individuals alone must not take the law into their own hands. Government today is of the people—it is theirs. If any action of the Government is not approved those with different ideology will take its place.

Gandhiji is no more. He cannot be replaced. But as long as we are here, we on our part should strive our utmost to fulfil the great message of Gandhiji, i.e., the pursuit of truth and the practice of tolerance. He stood for the Kingdom of God. He braved everything—he lost his life but won the Eternal Crown.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the foul hands of a cowardly assassin have robbed the world of one of its greatest treasures. It is impossible for us to assess the gravity or the magnitude of the calamity, for Mahatmaji not only belonged to the present but he also belonged to the unborn future He not only belonged to India but he belonged to the world. He was a light that sought to dispel the gloom and the darkness that overhanged humanity; he was a light that shed truth, justice, love; he was a light that showed the path of rectitude and orderly conduct to humanity. Sir, for his death the world is darkened.

Sir, our religion enjoins on us not to mourn the departed by recounting their virtues and extolling them. Sir, death is an inevitable bridge that a mortal has to cross to embark on life eternal. Mahatmaji's soul has been freed from the trammels and the bounds of this limited and circumscribed earth and now roams freely in the limitless expanse of the universe. From God he came and unto God he has returned, but for us, Sir, who have been left behind to mourn his loss, his presence in our midst in flesh and blood was sorely necessary. When the forces of evil, hatred, distrust and disintegration are rampant the unifying force that was Mahatmaji was necessary. Sir, his penetrating insight, his universal love and his wise guidance, his transcendent sympathy were all sorely necessary to us in the hour of our dire peril.

Sir, we have lost our father and it is a small consolation to know that he has gone to heaven.

Therefore we now turn to search the root of this fell tragedy that removed the dear one from our midst. How is it that India was capable of producing even one man who could inflict such a grave and terrible injury on us! Sir, we have been told that elaborate police precautions and other precautionary measures were taken to safeguard this inimitable, this wonderful gift of the Indian nation to the world, but we have seen to our ever-lasting shame how misguided political fanaticism has spoiled and foiled all those measures.

Sir, Mahatmaji was a true friend of the Muslims. In fact, he has laid down his life in protecting the Muslims, and, Sir, we plainly feel apprehensive now of our future—indeed the future of India. If India is to be

saved from Fascism, we have, all of us, to apply ourselves to the task of rooting out this cult of violence from our fair land, and, in this I can assure the Hon'ble the Leader of the House that he will get unstinted, unreserved and unqualified support and co-operation from us, the Muslims of India. Sir, even in this grave menace that is beseting us, the peril that we are facing, I wish Mahatmaji were present to guide us as to how best to tackle it. It is indeed a very cruel dispensation of Fate that he has been taken away from our midst when we need him so much. Mahatmaji is no more. We cannot look to him for guidance any more. But he has left us a rich heritage of abiding ideals and rules of conduct, and it is in the relentless pursuit of those ideals and unremitting application of those rules of conduct in our own lives that we can establish peace, that we can create conditions for the ordered progress of the country.

With these words I and the Muslim members of this House wish to associate ourselves with the resolution moved by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House and also associate ourselves with the sentiments that he has expressed.

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my colleague and myself and the commercial associations we represent I identify myself completely with all that you, Sir, the Chief Minister and my honourable friend, have said. It is my distressful duty to give voice to our deep sense of sorrow and sadness occasioned by the death of Mahatma Gandhi in such tragic circumstances.

The Father of the Indian Nation was the world's most powerful exponent of peace through non-violence and no words of mine can express how we feel for the people of this land in particular and humanity in general at his loss. He was simple and humble in heart and long will be remembered his sympathy with the poor and lowly and his courageous endeavours in the face of personal anguish and sacrifice to further the cause of his beloved country. Like all great men Mahatma Gandhi knew that "the more life is spiritual the more it is real" and his saintly bearing captured the imagination and commanded the respect of the whole world, while the simplicity of his way of life serves as an inspiration to all who would emulate the dictates of his doctrines. In his play Abraham Lincoln, John Drinkwater uses these words—"when we worship greatness passing by, ourselves are great". In paying this tribute of respect to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi mere lip service cannot make us be considered as great. We must be determined to further the cause for which he worked, namely, brotherhood, to see in reality the vision as expressed by Robert Burns that "Man to man the world o'er shall brithers be for a that". No mere lip service can suffice, deeds not words will be required of us all in the service of India.

To members of Mahatma Gandhi's family we extend our sincere and heartfelt condolence. To his countrymen our firm belief that his shining life-long example will ever remain a source of spiritual influence to guide those who must continue in his great work

In company with the multitudes of his people we mourn his passing and honour his memory

Mrs. E. M. RICKETTS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Anglo-Indian Group wholeheartedly associates itself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers. On an occasion like this, words are of little avail to express sorrow, or to pay tribute to the departed great, and for my part I would consider it presumptuous for me to attempt to sing the praises of a man of the calibre of Mahatmaji. On the single occasion on which we had the privilege of coming into personal contact with him, we were so impressed with his innate goodness and with the charm of his magnetic personality, that we still find it difficult to realise that any human being should have dared to raise his hand against him. The world-wide respect

and veneration in which he was held were due more to the instinctive recognition of his greatness than because of a thorough appreciation and understanding of his doctrines. India had grown so accustomed to depending on him to solve her difficulties, that it was impossible for us to visualise a time when he would no longer be there to guide and lead us in his own inimitable way. His sincerity, his convictions were so strong that they could not but influence others, and wear down all opposition, and we who had seen him pass from victory to victory, had almost come to believe that he was not only invincible, but also immortal.

To one, however who had borne the burdens of a nation for over half a century, the ordeal of repeated fastings must have been an increasing strain, to which was attached the ever present dread of his succumbing, and leaving the warring elements of his beloved people with the feeling that they had been the cause of his death. Losing him as we have done, at the hands of an assassin, all men of good will are spared the tortures of remorse. No nation can be without its Judas, and the tragic success of the dastardly attack has made everyone realise the bitter harvest of disunity and disaffection. The Mahatma had done all he could to bring us to our senses. His frail frame could hardly have stood further mortification. If the choice had been given him, there is no doubt that he would gladly have made a holocaust of himself for the peace and happiness of his beloved Motherland. His death like his life has been a sacrifice. A cruel fate has taken him from us whilst we are still floundering in the deep and dangerous waters of newly acquired Freedom and Independence and the only way in which we can show our appreciation for this Great Soul, and our gratitude for the privilege of the many years of his inspired guidance and leadership, is by giving him in death, the consolation we so often denied him in life. Let us his children, sink our differences in our common grief, and just as the loss of a dear one so often unites a divided family, let each one of us who is associated with this condolence resolution, erect a living monument to his beloved memory, by sincerely practising in our day to day actions, in our every word and thought his doctrine of tolerance, of brotherly love and of kindness and consideration to the weak.

No matter how wise or how clear-sighted a man may be in life, he is not always able to read the thoughts and the hearts even of his friends; but once he becomes immortal, he can no longer be deceived. In life the power, the influence of the Mahatma were limited, in death his spirit is everywhere, nothing is hidden from him. He is still, like an anxious parent, watching over us, ~~hoping~~ and praying that the cruelty and inhumanity of his end might shock us all back to our senses, so that the fruits of his teachings might be even more abundant in death than in life.

We grieve most bitterly at the loss of the Father of our nation. May his noble soul receive eternal consolation and peace!

Sri JYOTI BASU: Mr. Speaker, with the whole nation my party mourns for Gandhiji. I shall not attempt to describe today Gandhiji's role in Indian politics and struggle for emancipation, nor do I feel it necessary to do so because it is common knowledge that for over a quarter of a century Gandhiji has been dominating Indian politics. In recent months Gandhiji, with whom we also came in very close contact, appeared to us as a distinct personality grasping with keen insight that communal strife would lead once more to the forging of new imperialist shackles of bondage. Whilst fratricidal war enveloped our minds and agonised cries of thousands of men, women and children rent the air, while even top ranking Congress leaders deviated from their ideals and the Congress Ministry failed to stem the flood of universal hatred, Gandhiji in his own simple way appealed to the people, to their basic humanity in Noakhali, Calcutta, Delhi and the rest of our land. While Congress leaders and Governments were failing him, he prepared himself for the supreme sacrifice of his life and the

ordinary people, both Hindus and Muslims in India and in Pakistan, responded splendidly. It was indeed in the fulfilment of this noble task that Gandhiji gave his life, being slain by the foul hands of a communal Hindu Mahasabha murderer. I am constrained to say that the Congress Government have so far failed to demonstrate their steadfast faith in Gandhiji's teachings. Those leaders do not believe in non-violence as far as the workers and common people are concerned. While Gandhiji preached unity, the Congress Government have split up the working classes into two camps through the I. N. T. U. C. Whilst Gandhiji believed in truth, his disciples, the Congress leaders and Governments spreading the falsehoods that the workers and the communists and other left parties with violence are threatening the State and not the communally-minded police, R. S. S. and the Hindu Mahasabha and such other communal bodies. The passing of a pious resolution, or joining in prayers, or erecting a monument will not help in fulfilling the task dear to Gandhiji. It is a false cry to say, as is being done through the radio and in public meetings, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!" We must pledge to declare war on malevolent forces of communalism, to hate those wretched and powerful forces which sow bitterness amongst us, to rouse just anger in our people against those, whether inside or outside the Government, who are attempting to crush the common people. We shall declare war on them and we shall move forward for the establishment of a truly free and democratic government of the workers and the kishans. We shall wait and see whether the Congress Government which has so far failed will change their attitude after the supreme tragedy and not merely pray but act in a manner which will be a fitting monument to the memory of Gandhiji.

Sri UDAY CHAND MAHTAB, Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to join in the homage paid to the memory of Mahatmaji by you, Sir, by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and leaders of various other groups in this House. It is difficult to find words adequate enough to express one's sense of deep sorrow during such a great national calamity. Gandhiji was not merely a great leader to all of us, but he was one of the greatest men of his age throughout the world. The void caused by his passing away is almost impossible to fill. Though he may not be with us in body, his spirit, his noble example of self-sacrifice will help and guide us through all our difficulties, and I am sure if we follow the path he wanted us to, we can steer clear of evil forces, avoiding rocks of hatred, strife and want, and bring our great country to the shores of prosperity, greatness and peace. And this alone will be a fitting and lasting monument to one who was the great architect of our freedom and independence today.

Janab ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so many tributes have been paid to the memory of our great leader that it is difficult to say anything new about the many aspects of Gandhiji's life and work. I have read and heard the many tributes paid by leaders of the world and by our countrymen in all parts of India. There was a reference in the meeting held in Bangalore, where the President of the meeting said that the concourse that had gathered to honour Gandhiji's memory reminded him of the glorious days of the Khilafat Movement.

I am standing here, Sir, today to declare with all the sincerity I possess that Gandhiji was not the leader of the Hindus alone. He was our leader. He understood us and he gave his life to save us. Whether in South Africa or whether in the earlier years of his activities in India Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was more our leader than the leader of any other group in the country. We put him—to translate an Urdu idiom—on our head and eyes. Gandhiji's word was law to us. In spite of the ferocity in the proverbially fanatic Muslim he followed Gandhiji on the path of non-violence with greater sincerity than some other sections of our people. Gandhiji, Sir, tried and tried successfully to show us the right political

path and he was our greatest advocate in the councils of those who could not see eye to eye with us. Gandhiji may not have accepted our ideology in its totality but Gandhiji understood the psychology behind it and I feel that if he had been spared to us longer who knows the whole aspect of the present Indian political situation might not have changed for the better. In spite of the division, in spite of the bitterness obtaining in the country, he, the man of peace, the man of friendship, the man of universal brotherhood, would have succeeded in bringing mutual friendship and affection among the Muslims and the non-Muslims not only of the Indian Union but of the part of India outside the Indian Union.

I had the honour of meeting Mahatmaji so far back as 1917. Since then, Sir, off and on I have been associated with him through the years. Sometimes I took the liberty to question his decisions. Not by anger, not in any other way but by a smile and by argument he put me right. Only three years ago I had the honour of going to him in Bombay and placing my grievances before him—why had he left us alone. He was not a Congress man, he was not a Muslim Leaguer; he was the leader of united India and I wanted him once more to come out and lead us. I guaranteed to him that the old Khilafatists and the senior members of the non-slogan chanting part of my community would rush to him in their hundreds and thousands and if Gandhiji led that Muslim crowd he would have a ten times larger crowd of non-Muslims with him and thus he would be able to settle outstanding problems. He could not see his way to do that immediately then but Gandhiji could not ignore things as they were happening. He brought peace to Calcutta, he brought peace to Bihar and he brought peace to Delhi. It is a pity that Providence did not permit him to go to Pakistan. I wish he had been spared to us even for a month for that visit. Had he gone to Karachi and Lahore the whole set-up of the country might have changed and then both India and Pakistan could have started to build the two Dominions as they should be built—not on animosity, not on unfriendliness but on amity and concord as brothers building their own two different homes but with the one object to build the country as a whole.

God in his wisdom, Sir, took away the Man of Peace. We mortal human beings cannot undo the act, but I feel confident in my own heart that in death Gandhiji will have served his people both in India and Pakistan—Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Parsee, Christian, Jew—better than what he did in his life.

Sri NISHAPATI MAJHI: মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয়, ভারতের তপোবনে তপস্বীর ন্যায় রবীন্দ্রনাথ ও মহাত্মাজী মৃত্যুকে অবহেলা করে জাগ্রত ভগবানকে অন্তরে বসিয়ে সাধনায় নিমগ্ন হয়েছিলেন। কিন্তু এমনি আমাদের দুর্ভাগ্য, পৃথিবীতে যখন হিংসা, বিদ্বেষ, অবিশ্বাস ও লোভ প্রবল হয়ে উঠলো তখন রবীন্দ্রনাথ আমাদের ছেড়ে গেলেন। তবু ভরসা ছিল মহাত্মাজী আমাদের মধ্যে আমাদের তপোবনে বিরাজ করছেন। কিন্তু বিগত ৩০শে জানুয়ারী তপোবনে একজন উন্মাদ আততায়ী মহাত্মাকে প্রার্থনার সময় আঘাত করে সে সাধেও বাদ সাধলেন। মহাত্মাজী এ নিষ্ঠুর আঘাত সহ্য করতে পারলেন না;—আজ এই ভারতের তপোবন নীরব;—দুঃখ, বেদনা, লজ্জা ও অপমানে ভারত শোকাভিভূত।

আজ গভীরভাবে অনুভব করবার দিন, মহাত্মার যে সব পরিকল্পনা কঠিন কারাগারে এতদিন যাবত অবরুদ্ধ করে রাখা হয়েছিল সেই সব কথা। কেন না এই পরিকল্পনাকে কার্য্যকরী করবার জন্যই মহাত্মাজী বিপ্লবী হয়ে, বিদ্রোহী হয়ে রাষ্ট্রকে এবং জনসাধারণকে জাগ্রত করতে চেয়েছিলেন। কিন্তু দুঃখের কথা সকলে তাঁর সেই অমর-বাণী কাণ পেতে শুনেন নাই। ৪১কোটী লোকের মধ্যে কয়েক জনকে নিয়ে মহাত্মাজী রাজনৈতিক স্বাধীনতা অর্জ্জনের জন্য সংগ্রামে নিযুক্ত হন। বিশ্ববাসী এজন্য স্তম্ভিত হয়েছিল। কিন্তু অহিংসা মন্ত্রের সাধক সেনাপতিরূপে যে দিন ২৫ বৎসর পর ১৫ই আগষ্ট আমাদের হাতে আমাদের দেশকে তুলে দিলেন সেদিন আমরা এই নির্ব্বিকার মহাপুরুষের পদধূলি নিয়ে ধন্য হয়েছিলাম। সে দিন তিনি এই কলিকাতা নগরীতেই মিলন সাধনায় লিপ্ত ছিলেন।

বাংলা মহাত্মাজীকে কতখানি গ্রহণ করেছে আজকে হয়ত সে বিষয়ে উল্লেখ করা অন্যায়। কিন্তু স্বীকার করতেই হবে বাংলাতেই মহাত্মাজীর শান্তি প্রচেষ্টা, মহাত্মাজীর অস্পৃশ্যতা বর্জ্জন-গাছ আজ ফলে ফুলে প্রস্ফুটিত হয়ে উঠেছে। তাই আশা হয় বাংলাতেই হরিজনগণ অস্পৃশ্যতাকে দশ বৎসরের মধ্যে উচ্ছেদ করে মহাত্মাজীর পরিকল্পনাকে সার্থক করে তুলবে।

হরিজনদের জন্য ভিক্ষাপাত্র হাতে নিয়ে তিনি এই বাংলায় বার বার দ্বারে দ্বারে পরিভ্রমণ করেছেন। ১৩ জনের স্থলে বাংলার পরিষদ-সদস্যের সংখ্যা তিনিই ৩০ জন স্থির করে দিয়েছিলেন। সেইরূপ ভারতীয় গণপরিষদে তিনিই নির্দ্দেশ দান করেছিলেন যে অস্পৃশ্যতাকে দণ্ডযোগ্য বলে ঘোষণা করতে হবে। তাঁর নির্দ্দেশেই বিভিন্ন প্রদেশে হরিজন উন্নয়ন কার্য্য, মাদকদ্রব্য বর্জ্জন এবং অস্পৃশ্যতা বর্জ্জন বিল কার্য্যকরী হতে চলেছে। বোধ হয় এই কারণেই পল্লী-সংগঠন এবং দুর্গত-সেবা বিভাগের সহিত হরিজন উন্নয়ন কাজের দপ্তর কেন্দ্রীয় পরিষদে কার্য্যকরী হয়েছে।

আজ বঙ্গীয় পরিষদের নিকট প্রার্থনা, অবিলম্বে হরিজন-উন্নয়ন বিভাগ কেন্দ্রীয় পরিষদের ন্যায় স্থাপন করুন এবং এই অধিবেশনেই অস্পৃশ্যতা-বর্জ্জন এবং গ্রাম-পঞ্চায়েৎ বিল উপস্থিত করে মহাত্মার পরিকল্পনাকে কার্য্যকরী করে ভারতকে আলোকিত করুন। ঊর্দ্ধলোক হতে মহাত্মার আশীর্বাদ তাহলে নিশ্চয়ই আমরা লাভ করবো।

পল্লীর অশিক্ষা, অস্বাস্থ্য, অর্থাভাব এবং দলাদলিই প্রধান সমস্যা। পল্লী-দরদী মহাত্মাজী এই জন্য শেষ পরিকল্পনা যা কংগ্রেসকে দিয়েছিলেন, তা দলিল স্বরূপ সম্পাদক মহাশয় দেশবাসীর নিকট উপস্থিত করেছেন। পল্লীতে পঞ্চায়েৎ কমিটি, ব্রতীদল, পল্লী-নায়ক এবং অধিনায়ক স্থির করে আমাদের আর্থিক স্বাধীনতা অর্জ্জনের পথে আজ অগ্রবর্ত্তী হতে হবে। পশ্চিম বাংলার ৩০ হাজার পল্লীতে যদি এইরূপ স্বাধীনতা রক্ষার ব্যূহ নির্ম্মাণ করা হয় তাহলে সত্যই আমরা পল্লীর উপকার সাধনে সক্ষম হতে পারবো। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তপোবনে মহাত্মাজী ও রবীন্দ্রনাথ বিশ্বকে একটি নীড়ের ন্যায় নির্ম্মাণ করবার যে আশা আকাঙ্ক্ষা করেছিলেন তাও সার্থক হতে পারবে। আজ বিশ্ববাসী সাগরের পার হতে এ পারকে ধিক্কার দিচ্ছে। আজও যদি সমস্ত অন্তঃকরণ দিয়ে ভারতের প্রত্যেক পরিষদ ও কেন্দ্রীয় পরিষদ মহাত্মাজীর পরিকল্পনাকে কার্য্যকরী না করেন তাহলে তাঁর প্রচণ্ড সংকল্পকে জাতি মনে প্রাণে গ্রহণ করতে পারবে না।

অপরাধ অনেক করা হয়েছে। এ জন্যই পাপ পুঞ্জীভূত হয়ে উঠেছিল। তাই তাঁর হত্যার অপমানে আমাদের হাজার হাজার বছরের জন্য জগতের নিকট ছোট হয়ে থাকতে হলো। দুঃখ হয় যদি তাঁর জীবন্ত অবস্থায় তাঁর প্রাপ্য সম্মান আমরা দিতে পারতাম তা হলে আরো কিছু দিন তিনি সংগঠন কাজে স্রষ্টারূপে বিরাজ করতেন।

স্রষ্টার সম্মুখে আমাদের ব্রত গ্রহণ করবার শুভদিন উপস্থিত হয়েছিল, কিন্তু তিনি কাজের জন্যই আমাদের সম্মুখ হতে অদূরে অবস্থান করছেন। আসুন, আজ আমরা সকলে মিলে প্রার্থনা করি তিনি যে অধিকার আমাদের দিতে বলেছিলেন আমরা সেই অধিকার সকলে মিলে সকলকে দেবো। যে এ কাজে পশ্চাৎপদ হবে তাকে ধিক্কার দিতে কুণ্ঠিত হবো না, ভাই হয়ে ভাইকে গ্রহণ করতে জীর্ণ সমাজকে চূর্ণ বিচূর্ণ করবো, এ কাজে ভীরুতাকে আশ্রয় করে আর কাউকে ক্ষমা করবো না, নতুবা মহাত্মাজীর প্রায়শ্চিত্তে জাতির প্রায়শ্চিত্ত হবে না। লোকভয় সমাজভয় ও মৃত্যুভয়কে পদদলিত করে যদি আমরা এগিয়ে চলতে পারি, এ কাজে পরাজয় ও পরাভব ঘটতে না দিই, তাহলেই সমস্ত পৃথিবী বিস্মিত হয়ে বলবে, জয় হয়েছে, গান্ধীজি, জয় হয়েছে আপনার সাধনার, সার্থক হয়েছে, মহাত্মাজী, সার্থক হয়েছে আপনার পরিকল্পনা; ধন্য হয়েছে দেশ, ধন্য হয়েছে আপনার স্বর্গলাভে।

Mr. DANIEL GOMES: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly associate myself with the sentiments expressed by you, the Hon'ble the Premier and the honourable members of this House On any reckoning the death of Mahatma Gandhi is a calamity of great magnitude Our beloved Mahatma by his exemplary manner of plain living and high thinking had attracted the attention of the whole world and he was looked upon by the entire world as the embodiment of all that is best in the Indian civilisation. Rightly or wrongly, but inevitably the world will interpret his death in

such a foul and criminal atmosphere as the beginning of the end of that ancient civilisation of ours. The death of Mahatma following within a few years of the death of Rabindranath Tagore undoubtedly leaves a very deep cavity in the international reputation of India which may take years to fill. In our own country the death of Mahatma has thrown the people into indignation, bewilderment and frustration. Our language fails, our voice gets choked and our senses swim in an ocean of grief. The present and the past by contrast bring home to us what a source of courage, what a pillar of strength and stability, what a fountain of justice and equity, our Mahatma was. The Central and Provincial Governments have lost a friend, philosipher and guide. The people have lost a selfless leader, a forgiving commander, a guafdian and a comforter. Mahatma was a person who inhaled nothing but truth and who exhaled nothing but non-violence. To contemplate that this flower of innocence, this champion of the down-trodden, this hero of our battle of independence should have been destroyed by one of our countrymen in circumstances which cry heaven for vengeance, fills us with an overwhelming sense of shame and bitter poignancy. If our grief is natural, our atonement for the sin is very necessary. We must strive to bring about the fulfilment of the destiny of India as Mahatma had foreseen it. We must strive to achieve a new India in which the dignity of labour is raised to its proper level where untouchability will be an unknown thing, where the different communities will mingle with one another in fraternal affection like milk and sugar. We must search our heart and purge ourselves of the slightest vestige of *himsa*. We must determine to infuse the country with a Gandhian sense of spiritual values; we must resolve to bring about the social revolution by means compatible with the Gandhian sense of tolerance and charity, patriotism and discipline. Above all we must resolve to be worthy of the independence that Mahatma has earned for us. Only thus can we hope to atone for the shameless ingratitude one of us has shown to him.

Mr. SPEAKER: To mark our respect to the memory of Mahatmaji I propose that we should stand for two minutes and observe silence.

(Members rose in their seats and two minutes silence was observed.)

There will be no further business of the House today and in memory of Mahatmaji I adjourn the House till 3-45 p.m. on Friday, the 13th February, 1948.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 3-30 p.m. till 3-45 p.m. on Friday, the 13th February, 1948, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 13th February, 1948, at 3-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 55 members.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Night-soil depot in the Bally Municipality.

***1. Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Health and Local Self-Government Department aware that there is a long-standing dispute between the Bally (district Howrah) Municipality and the rate-payers of Ward No. 1 regarding removal of a night-soil depot located within the residential area and human habitation of said Ward No. 1?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that some correspondences, *e.g.*, No. 821P.H., dated 30th April, 1942, were made with the Health and Local Self-Government Department in this matter who forwarded it to the District Magistrate, Howrah, for taking necessary action;

(*ii*) that the District Magistrate, Howrah, issued necessary instructions to the Bally Municipality for taking early steps in the matter; and

(*iii*) that no action by the said municipality appears to have been taken up till now?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will be Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

(*d*) If no action has been taken, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of making an enquiry into it and taking such steps as he deems necessary in near future?

Prime Minister and Minister-in-charge of the Health and Local Self-Government Department (The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY): (*a*) Government are not aware of any such dispute.

(*b*) (*i*) and (*ii*) No such correspondence is available in the offices of the District Magistrate, Howrah, and of the Bally Municipality.

(*iii*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

(*d*) An enquiry has been made into the matter from the Commissioners of the Bally Municipality in order to find out the exact situation.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: With reference to answer (*d*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the enquiry was made?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: The papers were sent to me the day before yesterday. I think the enquiry has gone to-day.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the findings of the enquiry?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: No enquiry has been made from the Commissioners. With regard to the enquiry from the District Magistrate, I have already given the answer. With regard to enquiry from the Commissioners of the Bally Municipality, that enquiry has been sent to-day.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the views of the local people were taken in the enquiry?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: No. I think I have not made myself clear. After I get a report from the Commissioners of the Bally Municipality I shall institute my own enquiry through my own Director of Public Health as well as take the view of the rate-payers.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Am I to understand that the enquiry has not yet been made?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: No, no. I think the word "enquiry" has a different meaning. The enquiry means that an enquiry has gone from the Bally Municipal Commissioners, and no enquiry has been made by the Government.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he would let the House have the findings of the enquiry when it is completed?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: That depends upon what the findings are.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there is some long-standing dispute between the rate-payers of some wards and the Bally Municipality?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I am not aware of it. But I can assure my friend that I am more anxious to prevent any filth depot affecting the rate-payers, being a medical man, than anybody else.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. SPEAKER: In accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, I nominate the following members of the Assembly to form a panel of four Chairmen for the ensuing session:—

(1) Sri J. C. Gupta,

(2) Janab A. F. M. Abdur Rahman,

(3) Mrs. Edna May Ricketts,

(4) Sri Radha Nath Das.

unless otherwise arranged, the senior member among them present in the above order will preside over the deliberations of this Assembly in my absence and in the absence of the Deputy Speaker.

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

The West Bengal Special Benches (Continuance) Bill, 1948.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I beg to introduce the West Bengal Special Benches (Continuance) Bill, 1948.

(Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Special Benches (Continuance) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration.

As it is clear from this Bill, it is a non-controversial measure which this Government has to bring before this House as we are saddled with a sour legacy from the past Government and the date on which the Special Benches will expire is the 16th of March this year. There are still 29 cases pending before these Special Benches and these are 29 cases of crimes committed during the period of riots. Government examined for a long time those cases and particularly those involving heinous offences are now pending their trial, and it is not possible that the trial will be over by the 16th of March. Therefore, to meet the anomaly which is likely to arise, Government is constrained to bring this measure before this House with a view to provide for the continuance of the Special Benches.

Sri JYOTI BASU: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has made out a case that this is a non-controversial Bill which is before us but we have not been told as to why, for instance, those cases which were pending before the Special Benches were not gone into as yet. They took place a long time back. Secondly, we are told in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that other cases may be allotted to these Benches before that date. Therefore it seems that it is not merely a question that some cases are pending and therefore we need a Bill of this kind, but that the Hon'ble Minister wishes to extend these provisions in such a way that in future also we shall have to be ruled by Special Benches. On principles I am against this particular kind of justice, and I think all democratic opinion would be on my side. But I know that there may be occasions when such things may be necessary, but those occasions have gone by, and I do know why again at this particular stage we are being subjected to this kind of law. It would have been much better if those cases which are pending before the Special Benches could have been referred to the ordinary courts of law, and as far as the future is concerned, I am against giving any power to the Government whereby they can constitute such Special Benches even if it be for trying such offences. I think the ordinary laws of the land and the ordinary courts of justice are sufficient to meet the situation.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to say that my honourable friend has brought forward points, I am afraid, under a misconception of the whole situation. It is not for me to say why those cases have not been gone into. As I have already stated, those cases are pending before the Special Benches, and the gentlemen who are members of the Special Benches are trying to dispose of them. But there is an inordinately large number of cases before them which have been disposed of. I would have been very happy if so many cases had not cropped up and if the riots did not take place at all. An immense volume of riot cases have been disposed of—by far the largest number of them—and the number pending to-day is 29, as I have ascertained, and I find that it is not possible for those 29 cases to be disposed of within this short time. Therefore the Special Benches have to be continued until those cases are disposed of, and I do fervently hope that there will be no occasion for fresh cases to arise. The question of allotting cases that has been mentioned are the cases which have already been taken notice of by the police, investigation completed and at the trial stage, these cases are to be allotted.

I do fervently hope again that no fresh episodes may take place which would necessitate fresh prosecution on the ground of these riots and there is no question of anyone being ruled by these Special Benches. These Special Benches are not ruling over the country, but they are entrusted with the task of trying offences which are committed. I do hope that no

such occasion arises and, as I have stated, other questions could be better answered by my predecessors—by the Government which had earlier been in office when the riots had been taking place—but we look forward all to see that the Special Benches may be rendered a dead letter after the 29 cases have been disposed of and in this, I hope, the co-operation and goodwill of all men will come forward to see that no further occasion arises to invoke the aid of the Special Benches. That much I could say to clear up the misconception and I commend this measure to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar that the West Bengal Special Benches (Continuance) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the preamble do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I move that the West Bengal Special Benches (Continuance) Bill, 1948, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to

The West Bengal Finance (Amendment and Repeal) Bill, 1948.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, I very much regret that Government are not prepared to-day to introduce this Bill. We shall give you notice in due course

The West Bengal Motor Spirit Sales Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1948.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, I beg to introduce the West Bengal Motor Spirit Sales Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1948.

(Secretary then read the short title of the Bill)

Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Motor Spirit Sales Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration.

Sri JYOTI BASU: Of course, I see that this is a very small Bill which has been placed before us for continuing the enhanced taxation on petrol, but we have not been told as yet—not explained as yet - by the Hon'ble Finance Minister as to why it was necessary to introduce this Bill to-day before the House. I should have thought that there was sufficient petrol in the country whereby it was not necessary for us to enhance the rate of taxation. Government's information may be different—we do not know. I am reluctant to give this power to Government whereby they are going to introduce such taxation I know that it may be said that this affects certain rich people who run cars, but we also know—and that is what I am concerned with—that if this Bill is introduced and these rates are continued, it may so happen that bus fares and so on may go up and that will certainly affect the public generally. Therefore, as we do not know whether a war is on the agenda of the Government and so they are storing up petrol, it would

have been good of the Finance Minister to kindly explain to us as to why this was necessary. I think that every effort should be made by Government to bring down such kind of taxation of the public generally, but, on the other hand, I find around in Bengal, for instance, that the cost of living index has gone up to about 350 or 360 during the last three or four months and the Government are unable to deal with the situation at all—with ameliorating the people's livelihood at all—and yet they are coming and asking us to enhance the petrol tax or to continue that in operation so that, they say, their revenues may increase. But I am sure that for a people's Government, which the present Government claim themselves to be, this is not the procedure, this is not the method whereby they should increase their revenues. Increase of revenue should be firstly by taxation of the rich as much as they like—we would not mind that—nationalisation of industries and so on, but this kind of taxation—as I have said, I repeat it once more—does affect the public generally. We would have liked the bus and tram fares to go down, but we find that that is not happening and the Government are not helping us to do that but are doing the very opposite and, therefore, on principle I am opposed to this kind of taxation.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of this Bill is to continue in force on a permanent basis the present rate of taxation. When this Bill was passed by this House in 1946 it was given only a life of little over two years. Now the present Government wants to give it an indefinite life.

Sir, when this Bill was introduced there was a shortage of petrol and petrol was rationed and therefore people were not able, even if they wanted, to consume as much petrol as they wanted to and therefore revenue on petrol had fallen and Government felt constrained—and I feel justifiably—to increase the duty or the taxation on petrol. Sir, petrol is even now rationed but it is easing up. We find that there are more issues of petrol made by the Petrol Rationing Authority and a time will soon come when petrol will be derationed, but with the coming of derationing of petrol it is incongruous, Sir, that the Government should seek to keep the enhanced taxation on a permanent basis. If the Government wanted to keep the level of revenue on a par by keeping in force the taxation on petrol, as was allowed for in the Bill of 1946, for only a limited period till such time as petrol was derationed, I should have understood it, but the Government now seeks to enhance the rate by 6 annas per gallon, irrespective of whether petrol is rationed or derationed or whether there is unlimited supply of petrol or not. We do not know what the Government proposes to do with the money it will get at this enhanced rate of tax when petrol is eventually derationed but I suspect the Government's motive for only introducing the words "on a permanent basis". Government should immediately, here and now, state like the old Petrol Bill that it should have a limited life of two years or till such time as petrol is derationed and the country is able to consume as much as it will be willing to consume.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first part of the objection of the Honourable Mr. Basu has been answered by my friend on the other side. The Bill was necessary, because the Act levying the tax at the current rate will expire on the 31st of March. As regards the question of putting it on a permanent basis, that is necessary in view of the financial position of our Province, and the honourable member will be able to find the position in that regard on Tuesday when I shall present the Budget. But though it is permanent, it is absolutely possible for the members to alter the rate and to decrease the tax if a case is made out. Because it is in the Statute Book, it does not take away the right of members to change the Bill. We have not been able at the short time at our disposal to go through the implications of all the taxation measures. That is why we have kept the *status quo*. And if we find it necessary——(Janab

MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Have it extended for two years.) (Cries of No, No.) It is necessary to put it on a permanent basis because we think that petrol tax money will be permanently necessary. Avoiding taxation and demand for all the amenities of life—I do not think—can go together.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker that the West Bengal Motor Spirit Sales Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that Clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that Clause 2 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

The question that Clause 3 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the Preamble do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Motor Spirit Sales Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1948, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The other Bills will not be taken up to-day, because time has been given for tabling amendments. They will be taken up on some other day.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 4-15 p.m. till 3-45 p.m. on Tuesday, the 17th February, 1948, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935 as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 17th February, 1948, at 3-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble SRI ISWAR DAS JALAN in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 61 Members.

(When the question was called the Hon'ble Minister was found absent.)

Sri BIMAL COMAR CHOSE: Sir, I suggest that the question be held over today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the question be held over today.

BUDGET FOR 1948-49.

Finance Minister's Statement.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to present the first Annual Budget of West Bengal, one of the two youngest Provinces in free India brought into being under the new order of things. As I recall the occasion when it fell to me, as the first Finance Minister of Autonomous Bengal under the Government of India Act, 1935, to present the first Budget, I cannot but feel the irresistible impact of the momentous changes that have taken place in our land during these intervening years. Today, we breathe the air of freedom and the power to shape our destinies lies in the hands of our own people. And yet on the morrow of our newly-acquired freedom, a great national calamity has robbed us of our proudest possession and leaves us stunned with an overpowering sense of sorrow. I share with millions of our people and with countless men and women all over the globe the profoundest sense of grief at the tragic event It is difficult to reconcile oneself to this stupendous loss; difficult and awful to contemplate that the ship of State will have, henceforth, to sail the uncharted sea of freedom without the wise and sagacious pilot at the helm For over a quarter of a century Mahatma Gandhi has been our never failing guide and mentor; that vast shadow under which we have lived and grown; and the mainspring of all our national urges and aspirations In fact, he represented the soul of India and the quintessence of her culture and civilisation with its ideal of plain living and high thinking and service to the common man It was his life's mission to attune our freedom to the highest concept of Indian life of which love, piety and simplicity are the key-notes. And our desire for democracy and our determination to achieve it have their springs of inspiration in the teachings of the Master, who lived for the lowly and the poor and symbolised in his bare and spare physical frame their mute yearning for self-expression.

By his experiments with truth and non-violence, he was weaving into pattern a unique synthesis between different classes, creeds and communities which was opening up a new and hitherto undisclosed chapter in human history. He more than made up, in himself, for the defects and shortcomings, not only of Ministers of State, but also of the vast multitude of his countrymen. In fact, he filled the gaps in our nationhood until we became a nation; and yet the infant nation, mothered by sorrow and

travail, is today, almost at its nativity, bereft of the solicitous care of the ministering angel. The hand that guided us along the path of strife and struggle, towards the goal of independence, is today withdrawn behind the veil of death. Today, when our need for his advice and guidance is, if anything, greater than ever before, he has been snatched away from our midst by a cruel destiny. As a barge in a perilous sea looks up to the lighthouse for a safe haven, so our leaders used to look up to him for light and guidance. Now that light is gone, and gone is that central unifying force in our national life. Let us not forget, at this turning point of our history, to try to translate into our policy and actions the lessons which he has left behind as our heritage—to serve the common man and to bring into his life the bracing air of peace, prosperity and happiness. Let us not forget that in a secular government moulded in the form of true democracy, the emphasis must always remain on the common man irrespective of religion, caste or creed.

As I reflect upon the life of the Master, my heart also goes out in deepest gratitude to those fighters for our national liberation—known and unknown—many of whom made the supreme sacrifice by laying down their lives so that those whom they left behind could live and die as free men in a free India. They have now passed into history; but the light that they had lit will never grow dim and will illumine the long and arduous path that lies ahead.

Mahatmaji's passing away marks the end of a crowded epoch in our history, the closing phase of which, full of storm and stress, has made our task today even more onerous than it was a decade ago. It enjoins on us an extraordinary humility in view of the magnitude of the task and emphasises the need for care, caution and vision in the discharge of the responsibilities that lie ahead of us.

The birth pangs of our infant Province have indeed been terrible. The insensate outburst of communal frenzy, generated by the pernicious two-nation theory and its attendant cult of hate, have left behind it a trail of misery too deep for words and given rise to problems too baffling for the ingenuity of human endeavour. Thanks to the wise counsels of our leaders and, above all, to the mighty spiritual influence of Mahatma Gandhi, the innate good sense of our people has begun to reassert itself and to West Bengal belongs the proud distinction of being the first to recover sanity. We have upheld in practice the fundamental tenet of our new Constitution that, under the flag of the Indian Union, all its citizens are equal as brothers and comrades, irrespective of religion, caste or creed.

It is most unfortunate, however, that it has not been given to us to share the fruits of our newly-acquired freedom with our kith and kin who have been severed from us by the immutable course of events culminating in the new frontier of East Bengal. It is easy to realise the sense of frustration and the wrench of heart which they must be feeling when they find that all their sufferings and sacrifices for the cause of freedom have proved to be so barren to them. With the limitations imposed on us by the new political changes, it may not be possible for us to render all the relief they may need or all that we may wish to render to them in the new predicament, but I give vent to our sincere feelings when I say that they have our deepest and most sincere sympathies in the situation they find themselves in and that their interest and welfare shall ever remain a matter of vital concern to us. Whenever necessary and wherever possible and to the full limit of constitutional proprieties, we shall use all our good offices with our neighbouring Dominion to secure for them political and economic justice. Political division and man-made frontiers cannot, I sincerely think, alter the fundamental cultural unity of the great Bengali race, born and brought up in the midst of a multitude of cultural, economic and social ties. I

devoutly hope that, given good-will, the two sister Provinces can yet regain and re-establish that good neighbourliness which must ultimately tend to serve the best interests of both, culturally and economically.

In the present political set-up it is necessary to take a closer view of the area to which our activities, political and administrative, have to be confined. Partition of the Province has, indeed, changed the complexion of our economic problems in many important respects. An appreciation of these changes is essential before we can proceed to tackle such of our problems as fall within the scope of the Provincial Government. In population and area, West Bengal is about a third of the old Province of Bengal. According to the Census of 1941, its population is about 2 crores 12 lakhs or 35·1 per cent of the population of undivided Bengal. This number must have increased substantially due to the general growth in population during the inter-census period after 1941 and also during the war years when influx of population to Calcutta and adjacent areas from other parts of the country was considerable. The latest contributory factor to the increase in population has been the steady influx of people from East Bengal after the Partition.

The area of West Bengal is about 28,215 square miles or 36·4 per cent. of the area of the parent Province. The density of population is 751 per square mile which must have risen as a result of the increase in population in recent years. According to the occupational statistics, about 50 per cent. of the population follow non-agricultural occupations and of them about 16 per cent. are believed to be engaged in industry of some type or other.

As regards distribution of population in West Bengal, about 22 per cent. live in towns while the corresponding figure for East Bengal is about 4 per cent. only. Since the influx from East Bengal is mostly swelling the population in the towns, West Bengal's problems of food-supply, housing, education and public health as also of finding employment for large blocks of floating population are rapidly growing in magnitude and complexity. For example, housing shortage in the towns is very acute; owing to sudden influx of population, the existing sanitary arrangements even in smaller towns are proving inadequate and unequal: the need for increase in agricultural production has become urgent for the purpose of providing the necessary foodstuff and also the raw materials for certain industries. This process of rapid urbanization of the Province should no doubt be welcomed for it has a brighter side as well. It is easier to organise better facilities for education, public health and other social amenities in urban areas. But at the same time urbanization throws a great responsibility on the people and their Government to find the necessary funds for all these purposes as also for feeding the entire urban population. Urban areas provide the most lucrative market for agricultural produce but the agricultural economy of the Province must be so planned as to fulfil this great responsibility of feeding the urban population by the intensification of production. Rural economy should, therefore, be more efficient, more progressive and more elastic.

Agricultural land in West Bengal has low productivity. Compared with East Bengal, it has a lower percentage of low lands and a smaller average rainfall. Irrigation is ill-developed, only about 1,648,000 acres being irrigated. Of this, again, only about 244,000 acres are irrigated by Government canals while some 800,000 acres are irrigated by tanks. Compared with East Bengal, West Bengal has larger percentages of agricultural land classified as current fallow, cultivable waste and uncultivable; and it has a lower percentage of good arable lands. The high location factors of current fallow, cultivable wastes and uncultivable land measure the further possibilities in the direction of extensive cultivation. Such possibilities can, however, be tapped only by suitable irrigation facilities, including multi-purpose projects like the Damodar Valley Scheme. There is also much scope for intensive cultivation by double cropping and other methods, for which also suitable conditions have to be created, the existing conditions being not very favourable. Generally speaking, lands in West Bengal

suffer not so much from any serious inherent deficiencies as from the scarcity of water which is now the greatest drawback; for even the best manure can have little effect in the absence of necessary moisture in the land.

Agricultural land *per capita* of population in undivided Bengal was nearly 0·49 acre. In West Bengal it is now 0·44 acre including land under food-crops to the extent of 0·40 acre. The Province is deficit in most crops, *e.g.*, jute, sugarcane and mustard, and possibly in rice as well.

The problem of jute is one of vital importance to us. So far as jute manufacturing industry is concerned, West Bengal retains all the mills of undivided Bengal, but more than 70 per cent. of raw jute is being produced by East Bengal although she has no manufacturing industry of her own. In such circumstances, the inter-dependence of the two Provinces should act as a potent factor for establishing friendly commercial relations between them. Should this prove not to be possible, it may be necessary to meet the raw material requirement of our jute mills by increased production in Assam, Orissa and Bihar, and by removing the existing restriction on the acreage of jute in West Bengal.

The sugarcane position in West Bengal has also got to be fully investigated. The acreage under sugarcane in this Province according to available statistics is 65,000 acres and the average yield is about 400 maunds per acre. The total acreage, however, is scattered all over the Province mainly in small plots and the output is mostly used for producing *gur*. It is necessary to increase the acreage under sugarcane as well as the yield, to facilitate an expansion of the very limited production of sugar within the Province and incidentally to secure a larger output of molasses which is a basic raw material for the manufacture of rectified spirit. The area, it is estimated, can be doubled by expanding cultivation of sugarcane in Kalna and Katwa subdivisions of the Burdwan district, Ghatal and Tamluk subdivisions of the Midnapore district and the districts of Nadia, Murshidabad and 24-Parganas.

As a result of the Partition we have lost all the big rivers except the Hooghly. The small rivers we have now got all originate in the hills of Chota-Nagpur in Bihar. These rivers are really drains for eliminating the rain-water of Chota-Nagpur. After causing floods in West Bengal during the rainy reason, they go dry during the summer. If the floods are to be controlled or if the water is to be used for irrigation purposes, it is necessary to build reservoirs in the upper reaches of the rivers which are situated in Bihar. To this end two schemes, viz., the Damodar Valley Scheme and the Mor Scheme, have already been conceived to which I shall refer later on.

West Bengal has the advantage of a diversified economy with well-developed industries, trade and commerce. On the eve of the World War II, Bengal had nearly 5·70 lakhs of industrial workers in large establishments, or 28·7 per cent. of all such workers in the whole of India. The number has since exceeded by 6 lakhs. The Partition has put nearly the whole of industrialised Bengal within the orbit of the new Province of West Bengal.

West Bengal retains all the resources of coal, iron ore and other minerals so far found within the old Province as well as a substantial area under tea. It also includes the major industries in and around Calcutta and Asansol. With the principal industries in East India situated within its territories and with Calcutta as its port of pre-eminent importance, West Bengal still offers an attractive field for new industrial enterprise which will improve further with the implementation of the new electrification schemes.

Factories and commercial organizations in Bengal grew up in the past on the basis of the Province being an economic unit and necessarily one marketing zone. Now, under changed conditions, it is doubtful if the old markets in East Bengal can be counted upon with as much confidence. So, in planning our industrial and commercial expansion, more reliance will

have to be placed on the markets in the Indian Dominion than on those of our sister Province which today forms a part of a different Dominion. This may create considerable difficulties for some of the industries in the matter of development and expansion and the Province will require the effective goodwill and support of our Dominion Government for providing opportunities for expansion along new lines in the framework of all-India plans.

As regards geographical compactness West Bengal has suffered greatly from the Radcliffe Award. The two northern districts of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling have no territorial contiguity with the rest of the Province and there are consequent difficulties in communication with the southern part, which is compact and well-served by roads and railways and whose potentialities for development are demonstrably great In Calcutta, we possess not only a great cosmopolitan city, but also a great centre of trade and commerce. We have renowned centres of culture like the Calcutta University and the Viswabharati. We have been fortunate that institutions like the Medical College and its Group of Hospitals, the Engineering Colleges, Research Institutions and other important institutions have fallen within the territorial limits of our Province. We thus possess a good basic structure to which we can add progressively according to our requirements, though, as I shall mention later, the retention of these assets will result in our being burdened with a larger share of the liabilities of undivided Bengal. As part and parcel of the great Indian Union I am quite hopeful, we shall not lack opportunities of development and progress. But the *sine qua non* for such development and progress is a peaceful atmosphere and the requisite will, energy and initiative of our people Given these conditions, there is no reason why West Bengal should not fulfil a glorious destiny and it shall be our endeavour to work towards that end

Now, turning to the administrative and financial consequences of the Partition, the most important of these relate to the transfer of staff on the basis of their choice and the division of assets and liabilities In regard to the former, had the Government of East Bengal agreed to a standstill arrangement for a short period and consented to offer to the Government servants an opportunity for revising their choice at the end of the period, as was done at the Centre, both the Provinces would have benefited. This Province would not have been saddled with a large surplus service personnel and the Government of East Bengal would not have lost the benefit of the experience of a large body of trained personnel. But, as in spite of repeated attempts it was not possible to persuade the Government of East Bengal to agree to such a course of action, immediate movement of a very large personnel from East Bengal had to be undertaken on the 15th August, 1947 Owing to the limited scope for employment available at the present moment due to a substantial shrinkage of the administrative area of the Province, it has not been possible to provide useful occupation for all these persons. The position is particularly difficult in regard to subordinate staff. We have seen to it, however, that avoidable hardship is not caused to this section of our service personnel. Some of them have been granted leave pending absorption: others have already been absorbed in suitable services; and the rest have been attached as supernumeraries pending absorption in permanent posts. It is our intention that all such pools of displaced manpower should be liquidated as early as possible by absorption in our expanding schemes of development.

In regard to the division of assets and liabilities, a large number of Departmental Committees on which both the Governments of East and West Bengal were equally represented were appointed under the ægis of the Separation Council to tabulate all the known assets and liabilities of their respective departments and to suggest the most reasonable basis for their allocation. These suggestions were considered first by a main Committee and thereafter by the Separation Council and agreements were reached on

a number of points. Division of various items like furniture, equipment, motor vehicles, launches, dredgers, medical stores and stock of foodgrains, etc., were carried out by agreement. Lands and building were allocated on the basis of their territorial location. But it was agreed at a later stage that their values should be determined for the purpose of financial adjustment between the two Provinces. The basis of valuation is pending before the Arbitral Tribunal. In regard to some other important points also, as for example, the ratio in which the net excess of liabilities over assets should be distributed between East and West Bengal, no agreement was found possible and these had to be referred to the Arbitral Tribunal for decision. In an Appendix to the Red Book which has been placed in the hands of the Hon'ble Members will be found a statement of the assets and liabilities of undivided Bengal showing the value of items specifically taken over by East and West Bengal either as a direct consequence of the Partition as in the case of buildings, or on the basis of negotiations as in the case of stocks of foodgrains. The estimates of value are in most cases approximate since the actual figures will not be known till the accounts of the old Province of Bengal are finally settled.

A matter of most vital and immediate concern has been the settlement of outstanding liabilities of the old Government of Bengal on account of goods supplied and services rendered before the date of Partition. In order that creditors might not be left in doubt and uncertainty about the position, it was provided by the Indian (Rights, Property and Liabilities) Order, 1947, that the initial liability for all goods supplied and services rendered, and for outstanding loans, guarantees and financial obligations of the late Government of Bengal at the time of Partition should be the liability of East Bengal subject to an equitable contribution from this Province to be settled later on. By agreement with the Government of East Bengal, an Application Committee consisting of one representative from each of the two Provinces was set up for the purpose of scrutinising the claims of creditors of the old Bengal Government with a view to their initial payment by the Government of East Bengal in terms of the said Order. Unfortunately, the Government of East Bengal has not yet found it possible to send their representative to the Application Committee in spite of repeated reminders and requests, and to the great disadvantage of the creditors of Bengal, this statutory financial obligation of East Bengal remains undischarged up till now. The amount involved in such outstanding claims, as far as we have been able to ascertain, will be over 6 crores. Apart from the financial obligations in respect of supplies made and services rendered to the Government of Bengal, the old Government left a large financial liability of a miscellaneous nature. Thus, they not only left behind a public debt in the form of treasury bills, but had also spent up all the Provident Fund deposits of Government servants as well as civil, criminal, revenue deposits and deposits of public bodies which formed a part of the cash balance of undivided Bengal. West Bengal will have to take a further share of these liabilities according to the award of the Arbitral Tribunal in addition to the financial liability of 2¼ crores taken immediately after Partition, which I shall explain later. Financial adjustment will also lie against West Bengal in respect of assets like land and buildings, institutions with plant and machinery, etc., which are geographically located in this Province. Unless adequate help is forthcoming from the Centre to enable this Province to start on a clean slate, the new Province will have to begin its career with a financial handicap.

Let me now explain the position of the Government Account as it stood on the 15th of August, 1947. The House is aware that the Government of undivided Bengal had a succession of deficit budgets during the last few years and their budget for the current year left an uncovered gap of 6 crores between revenue and expenditure. It is not surprising in these circumstances that on the date of Partition, leaving aside the cash in

Treasury chests, the Account of the late Government of Bengal with the Reserve Bank showed a debit balance of over 5 crores. This debit balance, was, by direct negotiation between Pakistan and the Indian Union in Delhi, allocated in equal proportions to East and West Bengal. This Government accordingly started with a debit balance of 2½ crores in the Reserve Bank partly counterbalanced by the cash balance in Treasuries amounting to about half a crore. In other words, it started with a net negative opening balance of 2 crores. The debit balance of 2½ crores in the Reserve Bank was liquidated with the help of a special advance of an equivalent amount obtained from the Government of India. A further Ways and Means advance of 2 crores was taken from the same source to enable the Province to carry on till sufficient revenue had been collected for the purpose of a reasonable working balance. The Ways and Means advance of 2 crores has since been fully repaid. The terms of repayment of the other advance of 2½ crores have not yet been finally settled.

I shall now review, very briefly, the financial estimates for the period from 15th August, 1947, to 31st March, 1948, as introductory to the Budget for the coming year.

The total revenue expected during this period of 7½ months is close upon 19 crores out of which 2 crores represent grants from the Centre for financing of Development Projects. The yield from normal sources thus amounts to 17 crores. This figure includes 50 lakhs on account of Jute Duty and 3 crores 60 lakhs on account of Income-tax receipts. Both these estimates are provisional because the Government of India have not yet decided what change should be made in the basis of allocation of these two items as a result of the Partition of Bengal. In regard to Jute Duty the position is that in terms of the Niemeyer Award, 62½ per cent. of the export duty on jute used to be divided among Bengal and other jute-growing Provinces in proportion to the amount of raw jute produced in each Province. This method of distribution is no longer suitable since the Partition has resulted in a cleavage between East Bengal which cultivates the bulk of raw jute and West Bengal which manufactures the bulk of jute goods. It seems necessary in these circumstances that the divisible export duty on jute should be divided into two categories, namely, duty on raw jute and duty on jute goods; and that, while the former may continue to be distributed on the basis of acreage, the latter should be distributed on the basis of production of jute goods. Proposals to this effect have been submitted to the Government of India and are still under their consideration.

In regard to Income-tax, the arrangement based on the Niemeyer Award has been that Bengal should get 20 per cent out of the divisible pool of income-tax collected by the Centre. This pool consisted of half the net collections reduced by a sum of 4½ crores. As a result of the Partition and consequent reduction in the size of the Province, it has been suggested by the Centre that the allotment to West Bengal should be reduced from 20 per cent. to 12 per cent. of the divisible pool. The value of the pool being estimated at 30 crores, our share according to the revised formula comes up to 3 crores 60 lakhs, the figure adopted in our estimate, as against 6 crores to which we should have been otherwise entitled. In our view the proposed change in the basis of allocation is not justified and we feel that our share of income-tax receipts should not be reduced by a figure greater than the actual amount of income-tax collected from East Bengal which comes up to a very insignificant amount. We have submitted our views to the Government of India and are awaiting their final decision.

In regard to the remaining heads, the estimates have been based on amounts actually derived in previous years from areas now included in West Bengal. The more important contributory items are 1½ crores from

Land Revenue, 1½ crores from Stamps, 3½ crores from Excise, 1½ crores from Sale Tax, 70 lakhs from Betting Tax, 30 lakhs each from Entertainment Tax and Electricity Duty and 40 lakhs from Motor Spirit Sales Tax.

On the expenditure side of the Revenue Account, the estimate for the 7½-month period of the current year stands at 16¼ crores out of which 2 crores is on account of Development Project financed by grants from the Government of India. What may be called the ordinary revenue expenditure for the period under review thus amounts to 14¼ crores. The Development Projects undertaken in the current year are, to a great extent, continuation of schemes already taken in hand before the date of Partition but provision has also been made for a number of new projects which have been worked out in sufficient detail to admit of their partial implementation in the current year. Among these may be mentioned a provision of 17 lakhs for the introduction of Basic Primary Education, 1 lakh for a Planning Organisation for heavy chemical industries in collaboration with Bihar and the Damodar Valley Corporation, 3 lakhs for the rehabilitation of Cottage Industries, 1 lakh for production of hand-made paper, 60 thousand for *Khadi* and 19 thousand for the promotion of *Gur* industry. The estimates also provide for the execution of a large number of irrigation schemes in various localities, the more important ones being the Trans-Damodar Internal Drainage Scheme in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah, the Soadighi-Gangakhali Drainage Scheme in the Midnapore district, the Berai Canal Project and the Subankai Danra in the Bankura district, re-excavation of the Saraswati Khal in Hooghly and Howrah and the preparation of a master plan for the drainage of Calcutta and the surrounding areas. Details of all the items included in the Development Programme will be found in an Appendix to the printed copy of this statement.

As already stated, the revenue expenditure in the current year, outside the Development Programme, is estimated at 14¼ crores This includes 57 lakhs for famine relief, 83 lakhs for the rehabilitation of riot victims, 48 lakhs for grants to local authorities for payment of dearness consessions to their employees and 2 crores for the administration of the Civil Supplies Department Under other administrative charges may be mentioned about 1 crore under General Administration, 2 crores under Police, 38 lakhs under Jails, 50 lakhs under Administration of Justice and an equivalent amount for the discharge of pensionary liabilities. The provisions under beneficent activities include 1 crore and 8 lakhs for Agriculture, 52 lakhs for Irrigation, 1 crore and 10 lakhs for Education, 98 lakhs for Health Services, 66 lakhs for Industries and 90 lakhs for Civil Works. Details of all these provisions will be found in the Red Book and I need not tax the patience of the House by recapitulating them here. All that I would like to mention is that increased provision has been made for the development of facilities for education and medical relief both in State-owned and privately-managed institutions and due attention has been paid to the urgent need for irrigation, seeds and manures in an all-out attempt to increase the production of food-crops. Steps have also been taken to carry out essential improvements in our means of communication which is so necessary for speedy transport of agricultural and other produce.

With an estimated revenue of 19 crores and an expenditure budget of 16¼ crores, the Revenue Account for the current year closes with a balance of 2¾ crores. This has been carried over as the opening balance for 1948-49.

I have already referred to certain transactions outside the Revenue Account. These include a Ways and Means advance of 2 crores which has since been repaid; and a further advance of 2½ crores which has been utilised for wiping out the negative debit balance in the account of undivided Bengal with the Reserve Bank of India. This second advance remains outstanding at the close of the year. The only other item which requires a

word of explanation is the provision of 2 crores under "Capital Expenditure". Out of this 1½ crores represents the net outlay on the procurement of foodgrains or, in other words, the value of stocks acquired in the current year which are expected to remain in hand at the end of the year. Procurement operations are financed by means of a cash credit advance from the Imperial Bank of India, the advance being secured by hypothecation of the stock. The balance of the Capital Expenditure relates to the outlay on productive development projects, the most important of these being the Mor Irrigation project for which 40 lakhs has been provided in the current year. The expenditure is to be financed by a loan from the Government of India, for which requisite provision has been included in the estimates. As in the case of these transactions receipt and expenditure balance each other, the closing balance is not affected.

I now turn to the estimates for the coming year. The year starts with an opening balance of 2½ crores. Revenue Receipts are estimated at 31 crores out of which 6½ crores are on account of grant from the Centre for financing Development Projects. The "ordinary" revenue, therefore, amounts to 24½ crores. The principal items contributing to this revenue are 1 crore under Jute Duty, 3 crores 60 lakhs under Income-tax, 40 lakhs under Agricultural Income-tax, 2 crores under Land Revenue, 6 crores under Excise, 2½ crores under Stamps and 5 crores under Sales Tax and cognate levies. The estimates under Jute Duty and Income-tax are tentative ones and reasons for this have been already stated

There are two points in regard to the Revenue Estimate to which I wish to invite the attention of the House. In the first place, two of the most important sources of revenue, viz., Income-tax and Excise, are very sensitive to trade conditions, the latter being particularly conditioned by the exise policy of Government Secondly, the present estimates are based on the existing structure of financial allocation between the Centre and the Province. It will be only after the new Constitution has been finally settled that we shall be in a position to know what our future financial resources are likely to be.

The Revenue Expenditure in the coming year is estimated at 32 crores out of which 6½ crores are on account of Development Projects financed out of the grant obtainable for the purpose from the Government of India The estimate also includes a lump provision of 1 crore with a view to afford some further measure of financial relief to lower paid Government employees. Leaving these two special items out of account, the estimate of what may be termed the ordinary expenditure of the Province stands at 24½ crores. The House may be interested to know how this figure compares with the expenditure in undivided Bengal. It appears from the Accounts that Bengal's revenue expenditure stood at 40 crores in 1945-46. The actuals for 1946-47 amounted to 42½ crores but as this was inclusive of 3½ crores on account of Development Projects, the ordinary revenue expenditure was very nearly the same as in the previous year. The estimated expenditure according to the Bengal Budget for 1947-48. amounted to 54 crores including 12½ crores for Development Projects; which places the ordinary expenditure at 41½ crores. An *ad interim* increase in pay granted to Government servants on the eve of Partition raised the estimate by 2½ crores to a total of 44 crores. It will thus appear that the estimated expenditure in this Province is nearly 56 per cent. of the estimate for undivided Bengal That the proportion is not in closer accord with the reduction in the size of the Province is due to a variety of factors. In the first place, there is a large body of surplus personnel opting from East Bengal for whom provision has had to be made. Then, again, the administrative and other charges in the city of Calcutta which form a large part of the expenditure have not undergone any diminution as a result of the Partition. These include, among other things, the charges on account of the Calcutta Police, the rationing organisation in Calcutta as well as the larger medical, educational and other Government institutions situated within the city. Apart from these, the most important reason

for the enhanced expenditure in West Bengal is that expenditure on beneficent activities has been very substantially increased over the limit fixed for undivided Bengal. This is most noticeable under "Agriculture" where the provision in the present estimates stands at 2 crores 31 lakhs against an actual of 2 crores 7 lakhs in 1945-46 and 2 crores 11 lakhs in 1946-47 for the whole of Bengal. The principle of making proportionately larger provision than would follow from the reduction in the size of the Province, has been pursued under a good many other heads of beneficent activity.

Let me now mention briefly some of the more important items for which provision has been made in the Budget for the coming year.

Having regard to the fact that efforts are likely to be wasted or be productive of very limited results in the absence of timely and carefully drawn up plans as parts of an integrated comprehensive scheme, it has been decided to set up special organisations for the survey of requirements and for comprehensive planning in respect of Education, Agriculture, Irrigation, Medical Relief, Public Health measures, Fisheries and Industrial Development. The total provision made for these purposes amounts to 10 lakhs. There is a further provision of 5 lakhs for a Planning Organisation for Heavy Chemical Industries to be set up in the current year in collaboration with Bihar and the Damodar Valley Corporation It is hoped that with the assistance of these various planning organisations it will be possible to chalk out an effective and well-co-ordinated programme of all round development in the Province to be implemented according to our resources in men, money and material and in pursuance of a correct order of priority. In the meantime it is proposed to proceed with a number of items in regard to which objectives and schemes have been more or less definitely settled.

Under the Education Budget provision has been made for the improvement of facilities in various directions. The grant to the Calcutta University which is the pivot of our higher educational system has been enhanced from 8½ lakhs to 14½ lakhs mainly for the purpose of expanding the activities of the Post-Graduate Department in regard to higher research and the study of scientific subjects For the expansion of Collegiate education, 3 lakhs have been provided by way of research grants, 2 lakhs for the improvement of the Sanskrit College and 1½ lakhs for preliminary expenses in connection with the establishment of a new College in Darjeeling to satisfy the needs and aspirations of the Hillmen for higher education. An extra provision of 3 lakhs has been made for grants to non-Government Colleges for building projects and for the improvement of their libraries and laboratories A provision of 1¼ lakhs has been made for the establishment of four new High Schools for girls at Krishnagar, Suri, Jalpaiguri and Jhargram. A contribution of 10½ lakhs has been provided for a non-lapsable Fund created for the promotion of education amongst those sections of the society which are educationally and economically backward, and this will contribute towards the special needs of Scheduled Castes, Hillmen and Muslims. The grant to the Viswabharati has been enhanced from twenty-five thousand to forty thousand, and fifteen thousand has been provided for Tagore Memorial prizes.

The Development Programme under Education includes a provision of 11 lakhs for the introduction of the system of Basic Education in the Province. Also, in view of the importance which literacy among adults is likely to attain as a result of the impending change in franchise qualifications, a provision of 5 lakhs has been made for an adult education drive. Five lakhs have been provided for the improvement of the Shibpore Engineering College, 5 lakhs for the attachment of technical classes to High Schools and 2 lakhs for the setting up of an Engineering School for diploma courses. A provision of 7 lakhs has been made for the overseas training of students in various branches of technical and scientific study.

Other provisions comprised in the Development Programme include 6 lakhs for the expansion of Secondary Education including 3 lakhs for Girls' Education; 2 lakhs for the extension of the Presidency College; 2 lakhs for additional grant to Women's Colleges; 3½ lakhs for equipment and machinery for Government Colleges and 1 lakh for Hostel Buildings in rural areas.

The largest individual provision for Medical Relief is one of a crore and 3 lakhs under the Development Programme for the establishment of a net-work of Union and Thana Health Centres throughout the Province, each centre being equipped with an indoor hospital, an outdoor dispensary, a maternity clinic and an anti-malarial squad. Other provisions include 72 lakhs for the maintenance of Auxiliary Hospitals in rural areas and 6 lakhs for the establishment of a rural Nursing Service Provisions for the improvement of medical facilities in Calcutta include 26 lakhs for the Lake Medical College, 6 lakhs for the improvement of the Campbell Medical School with provision for an extra 100 beds, I lakh for the children's ward in the Medical College Hospital and 1 lakh for preliminary expenses in connection with the establishment of an Infectious Diseases Hospital. Among measures for combating tuberculosis are included a provision of 10½ lakhs for the hospital at Kanchrapara, 4½ lakhs for the establishment of a Sanatorium, 2 lakhs for the improvement of the Jadavpur Hospital and 1 lakh 44 thousand as a maintenance grant for the same Institution . A lump provision of 6 lakhs has been made for the improvement of non-Government medical institutions and of 10 lakhs for the rehabilitation of existing State-owned hospitals.

Provisions under Public Health include 35 lakhs for Rural Water-supply and 12½ lakhs for Water-supply and Drainage Projects in municipal areas. There is also provision amounting to close upon 25 lakhs for the execution of anti-malarial measures including free distribution of Quinine and Paludrine A lump provision of 8 lakhs has been made for anti-Leprosy Schemes and of 3 lakhs for Maternity and Child-welfare Centres

The most important item in the Agriculture Budget relates to the supply of seeds and manures to agriculturists with a view to increase the cultivation of food-crops. The total provision on this account amounts to 1 crore 33 lakhs, the greater part of the outlay being recoverable from the cultivators. Other provisions made for the same purpose include 6½ lakhs for the distribution of Iron and Steel for Agricultural Implements, 3 lakhs for the distribution of improved Sugarcane Cuttings, 4 lakhs for small Irrigation Projects in agricultural areas, 3 lakhs for the production of Compost and 5 lakhs for the establishment of Seed Stores. The more important provisions under the Development Programme are 20 lakhs for the re-excavation of Irrigation Tanks, 8 lakhs for the improvement of Livestock, 6 lakhs for Crop Survey, 50 thousand for Agricultural Research, 66 thousand for Soil Survey and 50 thousand for a Special Survey regarding the possibilities of extension of potato cultivation. With a view to secure the requisite trained staff for improved agricultural activities it is proposed to start an Agricultural College in West Bengal and a provision of 2 lakhs has accordingly been included in the Budget for land acquisition and other preliminary expenses. One lakh has been provided for the establishment of a dry cow salvage farm and 4½ lakhs for the running of the Brooklyn Ice Plant and Cold Storage chambers which have been acquired from the Army authorities. Finally, there is a provision of 25 lakhs for the completion of structures and provision of equipment in connection with the Central Live-Stock Station at Haringhata.

The most important item in the Irrigation Budget is the Mor Irrigation Project for which a provision of 86 lakhs has been made under a Capital head in the coming year. The Project is divided into two parts, Part I being the construction of a reservoir behind a high dam across the Mor in the Santhal Parganas in Bihar and Part II being the setting up of a

barrage in Suri along with pick-up weirs across the rivers Dwarka, Brahmani, Kopai and Bakreswar and a network of canals which are expected to irrigate an area of six lakhs of acres in Birbhum and parts of Burdwan and Murshidabad. The present provision is for the second part only which will irrigate about a lakh and 20 thousand acres and is estimated to cost 4 crores 38 lakhs in all. Execution of Part I of the Scheme awaits an agreement with the Government of Bihar. It is hoped that this agreement will be soon forthcoming as Part II by itself will not be sufficiently productive. Other important provisions include 17 lakhs for the Soadighi-Gangakhali Drainage Scheme, the Jhargram Scheme and the Dolong Project in Midnapore, 10 lakhs for the Berai Canal and Subankar Daura Scheme in Bankura, 8 lakhs for the re-excavation of the Saraswati Khal and the Trans-Damodar Internal Drainage Scheme in Hooghly and Howrah, 4½ lakhs for the development of the River Research Institute and 6 lakhs for the preparation of a master plan for the drainage of Calcutta and the surrounding areas. In connection with our plans for irrigation, I should like to refer to the Damodar Valley Development Project which is a multi-purpose scheme of unique importance and interest The scheme involves the erection of as many as eight dams in Bihar and is estimated to cost 55 crores. It will not only ensure adequate protection from the danger of floods but will also irrigate a vast area in this Province and generate 3 lakhs kilowatts of electric power which will be available both to Bihar and to West Bengal. The scheme when completed will help in the production of additional food-crops of between 2 and 3 lakh tons; and the hydro-electric power generated by it will be of great benefit to the coalfields

Under present day conditions a large sector of Industry will continue to be left to private enterprise Government's role will be to provide suitable facilities and assistance under proper control and regulation where necessary Government can help the development of industries by creating favourable conditions and by providing necessary facilities with a view to maximise production and employment In accordance with their latest industrial policy, the Central Government propose to develop a number of basic industries either as purely State enterprise or as enterprise set up partly with State and partly with private capital, or even wholly as private enterprise with State support and under regulation by the State. The Provincial Government's direct responsibility has, therefore, to be limited to the residual field In that field again they have necessarily to direct their attention more to cottage small and medium-sized industries than to large industries, which are more organised and can look after themselves much better Besides, big industries have to operate not only on an all-India basis but, in some cases, on an international scale. These industries are particularly affected by questions relating to taxation, tariff, foreign exchange, currency, etc , which come under the sphere of the Central Government. The scope for action on the part of the Provincial Government is also circumscribed to some extent by the responsibility of the Central Government to co-ordinate regional development in accord with all-India plans. Subject to these limitations, the Provincial Government can and will render all the assistance they are capable of towards the development of all categories of industries in the Province under proper control and regulation where necessary with a view to maximise production and employment

By this it is not suggested that under no circumstances will the Provincial Government venture upon any industrial enterprise on their own account. In regard to industries which are of a basic nature or which constitute public utility services, Government may decide to undertake such enterprises with a view either to carry out pioneering work or to create maximum employment for the people or to supply raw materials for other industries. The generation and supply of electricity, for instance, is a type of industry which Government has decided to undertake on their own

account, with the object of providing power to be utilised in irrigation, agriculture and industry. Government is also considering the question of developing the salt industry either on their own account or through suitable public corporations and Boards and by affording necessary assistance to the existing concerns.

Consistently with this policy, a provision of 15 lakhs has been made in the Budget for participation in the Central Government's scheme for the manufacture of fertilisers on a large scale at Sindri in Bihar. A sum of 14 lakhs has been provided for the development of the silk-reeling industry. Other items concerned with the development of the silk industry include reorganisation of the Silk Conditioning House, the Silk Technological Institute and the Department of Sericulture at a total cost of 8 lakhs. Five lakhs have been provided for the development of salt production and 3 lakhs for the encouragement of various types of small-scale industries such as hand-made paper, *gur*, etc. There is a provision of 4 lakhs for the promotion of the Khadi Industry and of 3 lakhs for the reorganisation of the industrial Research Laboratory. With a view to ensure an adequate supply of electrical energy which is so necessary for industrial development 32½ lakhs has been provided for the North Calcutta Electrification Scheme, 2½ lakhs for the appointment of power engineers and 2½ lakhs for the Kharagpur-Midnapore Electrification Scheme. There is also a provision of 3 lakhs for Diesel alternators for the supply of power and energy to areas where electricity is not yet available. The Tanning Institute and the Textile Institute under the Directorate of Industries are going to be considerably expanded and a total provision of 13 lakhs has been made for these two items. A number of provisions has been included in the Budget for the development of technical training institutions in West Bengal. A sum of 6½ lakhs has been provided for the establishment of two Technical Schools at Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling and of 5 lakhs for the provincialisation of the existing Technical Schools at Burdwan and Bishnupur. A provision of 5 lakhs has been made for the acquisition of land for a Higher Technological Institute to be established by the Government of India in the vicinity of Asansol. I would also like to refer to two other important provisions, namely, one of 4 lakhs for a general Planning Organisation for industrial development and another of 5 lakhs for a Planning Organisation for Heavy Chemicals in collaboration with the Bihar Government and the Damodar Valley Corporation.

I hope, in due course, to place before the House a proposal for the creation of an Industrial Finance Corporation for financing the development of medium-sized and small industries in this Province. The proposal is still under the consideration of Government. The organisation is proposed to be formed on the lines of the recent scheme for Industrial Finance Corporation formulated by the Government of India. No provision for this item has been included in the Budget but when the scheme matures, it will be placed before the House and the necessary demand for funds will be made.

Earlier in my statement I have referred to the urgent need for developing our means of communication. The total provision made for this purpose in next year's Budget amounts to 1 crore 33 lakhs and covers both Provincial Highways and important District Roads. There is also a provision of 45 lakhs for the section of the Calcutta-Delhi and Calcutta-Bombay National Highways passing through this Province as well for a road link with Assam from the border of Bihar to Bagdogra in Jalpaiguri. Work is also in progress on the National Highway connecting the southern part of West Bengal with the northern part. The entire expenditure on account of all these National Highways will be met by the Centre and the Provincial Budget is accordingly relieved of the charges relating to them.

The House is well aware of the extreme hardship to which the people going about their business in greater Calcutta are subjected daily for absolute inadequacy of transports facilities. As this area is the nerve-centre of the economic activities of the Province, facility of movement is absolutely essential, and Government have decided to create an organisation for putting a large number of buses on the roads immediately. Besides offering the necessary relief to the people, the scheme will also provide the requisite experience which will be helpful in connection with the eventual nationalisation of transport services in Calcutta. A provision of 50 lakhs has been included in the estimates with this object in view.

A very important matter which is engaging the earnest attention of Government is the problem of providing suitable housing accommodation for *bustee* dwellers as well as for the lower middle classes. The Burget includes a provision of 20 lakhs for the rehousing of inmates of slums and bustees and of 50 lakhs for housing schemes for lower middle-class people. The outlay on the latter project is expected to be fully recoverable in course of time.

Another item of productive expenditure which calls for individual mention is the Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme for which a provision of 50 lakhs has been included in the Budget. The object of this scheme is to acquire the Army site at Kanchrapara measuring about 13,000 acres with a view to develop it on a planned basis for industrial, residential and other purposes. The need for development of residential locations has assumed special urgency at the present time.

A lump provision of 1 lakh has been included in the estimates for the purpose of helping the establishment of a few community kitchens on an of the scheme is to alleviate the hardship of the large floating population of moderate means in this city who are confronted with acute difficulties of accommodation and cannot run their own kitchens for want of facilities. It also aims at providing a welcome relief to such families from the drudgery of cooking and at assisting them in obtaining a balanced diet. The kitchens will serve nutritious food under hygienic conditions and at economic prices. If this experiment proves successful in creating a favourable response to community feeding, it will have rendered a distinct social service by lightening the household problems of a large number of middle-class families. It will not, however, be possible to put the scheme into operation before the food stock position improves substantially.

We feel that those patriotic persons, who suffered and made sacrifices for the cause of the country and hastened the dawn of freedom, deserve special consideration from the Government. The Government are aware that some of them are living a life of poverty and are desperately trying to find their feet in life. A scheme of assistance for them is under the consideration of Government. When all over the world it is found that the war-veterans are being helped in many material ways by the Governments, we owe it to ourselves to do what we can to assist these veterans in the fight for freedom in the best practicable manner.

The welfare of labour is engaging the earnest cosideration of Government. It is fully recognised that contented and efficient labour is a vital asset to industrial production. The labourer is entitled to his full share in production and to adequate attention to his problems of welfare. At the same time it is obvious that increasing production is the surest road to increasing wages. Production being a co-operative process, the maintenance of good relations between the employer and the employed is essential to increasing production which is to the mutual benefit of both parties. It is, therefore, the duty of

Government to assist in the development of trade unionism on sound lines an to provide the necessary machinery for the settlement of disputes by bringin together the parties on a plane of reason and discussion. In consonance wit this policy a provision of 1 lakh 68 thousand has been made for the establisl ment of a conciliation machinery, development of trade unions on sound line and the opening of new labour welfare centres. There is also a provision o 1 lakh 25 thousand for labour welfare centres with attached dispensaries radios, reading rooms, etc.; and 40 thousand from the publication of th Calcutta Labour Journal.

There is a provision of 10 lakhs included in these estimates for preliminar expenses in connection with the abolition of the Zemindari System which i has been decided to carry out in the shortest possible times. The details o the programme of abolition are being worked out jointly with other Province and considerable progress has already been made The question of the amoun compensation as well as the method of its payment has not yet been settled a it is now being discussed at the all-India level. The provision of 10 lakh represents merely the preliminary expenses in connection with the preparatior of records and the assessment of claims to compensation.

It will be seen that in the estimates before the House for the coming year an additional provision of 1 crore has been made for increasing the emoluments of lower paid Government employees. This increase, I may point out, comes in addition to an increase of 2½ crores per annum provided for on the eve of the Partition. Both these increases are recurring charges. I am well aware that in the conditions of the present times even these increases may be found inadequate to meet the full needs of those for whom they are meant. But I am sure that Government employees, consisting as they do of a large proportion of educated men, will not fail to appreciate the difficulties in the way of making larger appropriations for this purpose. While there can be no denying that conditions of living in the urban areas have become difficult for many, particularly those with fixed incomes, it will be recognised that the salaries of Government employees must bear a certain relation to the income and the standard of living of the vast masses from whose toil the coffers of the State have to be filled. The Government of a country is not a profit-making institution like a commercial enterprise in which increased emoluments can be claimed on the basis of the profits made Besides, Government service can have a real significance only when it is actuated by a genuine spirit of service to the public. That does not mean that Government should be indifferent to the economic welfare of their employees or should not reward their devotion to duty by improving their emoluments. But this should be a gradual process, conditioned by our ability to achieve an improved standard of living for the masses and consequent availability of requisite resources to the State. I am fully confident that Bengal is second to no other Province in the display of public spirit which I have just now mentioned. And I make the appeal in the fullest confidence that Government employees of every grade and in every branch will evince that spirit of service to the country without which our new-found freedom would be of no avail to the masses and may, indeed, prove to be a bitter disappointment to them. I may assure them that after our present developmental plans for the amelioration of the conditions of the masses have progressed to some extent and the full picture of our financial resources under the new Constitution is known, we expect to see our revenues expand and then the question of raising the emoluments of lower paid Government servants will again be considered. For the present, let us not forget that the masses too are looking forward to the first fruits of freedom and the most essential amenities of civilised Government in the shape of better educational and medical facilities and other measures of social service.

Let me now state briefly the financial results of the working of the coming year according to the estimates placed before the House. The year starts with

an opening balance of 2¼ crores. Revenue receipts amount to 31 crores against an expenditure of 32 crores thus resulting in a revenue deficit of 1 crore. The net effect of operations under the Debt, Deposit and Capital Sections of the Bedget is a debit balance of 1 crore representing mainly the net outlay on procurement operations, that is to say, the value of stocks of foodgrains purchased but not sold off during the year.

The outstanding liabilities at the end of the year include the advance of 2¼ crores taken from the Centre to liquidate the share allocated to this Province of the debit balance of undivided Bengal with the Reserve Bank of India. As already explained, other liabilities of substantial dimensions are likely to accrue as a result of the allocation by the Arbitral Tribunal of the outstanding financial commitments of undivided Bengal and the value of assets like buildings included within the boundaries of this Province.

The House will observe that the first annual Budget of the Province of West Bengal is a deficit Budget. This however, need not give rise to misgivings. If we succeed in implementing the schemes for which financial provision has been made in these estimates, we shall have achieved encouraging progress towards the development of our Province. As the financial settlement under the new Constitution is finalised and comes into effect, we shall be in a position to know the nature and extent of our financial resources and we shall be able to exploit further sources of revenue according to requirement.

I may thus permit myself to end on a cautiously confident note. If the potentialities immediately ahead of us are fully realised by the right kind of endeavour on our part, there is ground, indeed, for taking a definitely optimistic view of the future. I hope and believe that in planning and executing our future Development Programmes, lack of money will not prove to be a great obstacle, provided money is properly used, schemes are rightly drawn up and taken up for execution in the correct order of priority, an efficient machinery is set up for their implementation and the enthusiasm and co-operation of the public are forthcoming in an adequate measure. Let me stress my conviction that given highest sense of integrity and the keenest standard of efficiency, the immediate future may well pave the way to a better, stronger and more balanced economy for our Province.

I have just given you a brief account of our plans and proposals for the coming year. I confess that these do not present a complete picture or a fully integrated programme of development for the Province. During the short time which was available to the previous Ministry, absorbed as they were with the immediate problems caused by the Partition, and the very brief period during which the present Ministry have been in office, it has not been possible for us to formulate such integrated plans. In respect of most of the development schemes, lump provisions have been made as an earnest of our sincere intention to elaborate comprehensive plans covering the requirements of the Province. When detailed schemes in respect of the lump provisions made under different department are ready, it is hoped that it will be possible to fit them together into an integrated whole.

The central objective of our Development Programme is admittedly to raise the standard of living of the masses. This, in ultimate analysis, is conditioned by two obvious factors, namely production of more wealth and its equitable distribution among the people. The foremost emphasis should, of course, be laid on the first of the factors at this stage of our economic development. Even the most equitable distribution of our existing national wealth can hardly ensure any substatial improvement in the standard of living and more wealth must be created by the improvement of agriculture

and industry. The resuscitation of our rural economy is naturally to be placed in the forefront of our programme of work and will depend mainly on the provision of cheap electricity and adequate irrigational facilities. Cheap electricity can alone assist the cottage and small industries in a material way and place them in a position of competitive efficiency in regard to organized industries—not indeed, with a view to replace them but as an effective part of an integrated whole comprising large-scale, medium-sized, small and cottage industries. The improvement of irrigational facilities in the rural areas will improve the yield of agriculture and help its extension in the Province in which many thousands of acres remain arid and uncultivated in the absence of adequate water-supply. Schemes for tackling all these problems are, of course, being taken in hand on a graduated scale and according to due order of priority.

In this process of developing our resources and creating new wealth, it shall be our constant endeavour to see that the increased production and prosperity is shared in its full measure by the common man both in rural and urban areas. It will be our aim to abjure any policy that tends to concentrate wealth in the hands of a fortunate few, thereby making, relatively, the rich richer and the poor poorer. It should, however, be remembered that it is not within the competence of any Provincial Government to control all the factors responsible for such inequalities in the society. I need hardly stress that no country can be a true democracy if it allows great inequalities of wealth and rank to exist except such as are warranted by differences in merit. For, it is basically wrong that one should go through life with every conceivable material advantage while others should be subjected at every turn to the cumulative penalties of the under-privileged.

I am fully conscious that whatever schemes, we have been able to provide in the present Budget do not go far enough to solve our pressing problems and to meet the anticipation of the public. I feel also that in the first year of freedom, it is difficult for the people as a whole or particular classes thereof to adjust their hopes and expectations to the realities of the situation. The exhilaration of new-found freedom, the sense of achievement that it gives, the material impulse to seek a just reward for the sacrifices or privations of decades and, above all, the inescapable feeling that foreign rule was almost the sole impediment to our prosperity and plenty—these inevitably raise high expectations and tend to accentuate the sense of disappointment. It is necessary, therefore, at this stage to remind ourselves of our difficulties and to view the problems to be solved on an objective basis. The change that freedom implies is that we are free to pool and apply our energies to our common task as we envisage it to our best interests. It does not automatically or by itself change in a moment the resources at our command. Those who expect that freedom, by itself, will, in the twinkling of an eye, wave all our wants and troubles away and at once re-establish our deranged economy on a sound basis, are counting without the inherent responsibilities of freedom. While Government may find ways and means of making larger outlays on big and beneficial schemes, the accomplishment of the various constructive schemes and projects would depend upon the expert personnel at our command, the capacity for co-operation and co-ordination which we have in our ranks and also the availability of requisite materials. That capacity can be greatly enhanced if we are capable of eliminating unhealthy differences, and enthusing one and all for the common aims we have before us.

While our endeavours as represented in this, the first Budget of our Province, in Free India are not spectacular or far-reaching, let us pray to Almighty God that these may lead to greater and more comprehensive efforts on our part. Let us also invoke the blessings of the Father of the Nation,

Mahatma Gandhi, in all our endeavours to build up a society in which there will be no poverty, no feeling of high class and low class; a society in whose making the common man will have an effective voice and in which all communities big or small shall live in perfect harmony.

"BANDE MATARAM."

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: "Jai Hind."

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: "Gandhiji ki Jai." Although Mahatma Gandhi is not with us in flesh and blood, his spirit is with us.

APPENDIX I.

West Bengal Budget, 1948-49.

(The figures are in thousands of rupees.)

	Estimate from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget, 1948-49.
Receipts—		
Opening Balance	2,06,12	2,54,22
Revenue Receipts	18,88,20	31,18,52
Receipts from Debt Heads	53,42,15	72,86,39
	70,24,29	1,06,59,13
Expenditure—		
Revenue Expenditure	16,46,98	31,96,45
Capital Expenditure	2,17,09	5,67,00
Expenditure on Debt Heads	49,06,00	68,20,79
Closing Balance	2,54,22	74,89
	70,24,29	1,06,59,13
Net Result—		
Surplus (+)		
Deficit (−)		
(a) On Revenue Account	+2,41,28	−77,93
(b) Outside Revenue Account	+2,19,06	−1,01,40
(c) Net, excluding Opening Balance	+4,60,34	−1,79,33

APPENDIX II.

Development Programme.

Abstract.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Heads.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate, 1948-49.
A—Revenue Account.		
63B—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes—		
Land Revenue	5,50	10,00
Forest	9,96	7,75
Irrigation	11,35	60,96
Police	..	2,00
Education	61,15	84,02
Medical	46,94	2,48,88
Public Health	16,72	65,09
Agriculture	25,86	70,77
Veterinary	12	53
Co-operation	6,73	21,74
Industries	8,32	67,51
Fisheries	10	3,12
Cinchona	.	98
Labour	67	2,08
Works	..	..
Miscellaneous	6,00	12,00
Total (Revenue Account)	1,99,42	6,57,43
B—Outside Revenue Account.		
68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works.	40,00	86,04
71—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research	2,50	11,50
72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development	11,80	79,18
81—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account.	17,65	1,33,24
82—Capital Account of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account.	25	1,70,00
Total (Outside Revenue Account)	72,20	4,79,96
Grand total	**2,71,62**	**11,37,39**

Details.

Land Revenue.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Items.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate, 1948-49.
Preliminary measures for abolition of the Zemindari System.	5,50	10,00

Forest.

Items.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate, 1948-49.
1. Scheme for afforestation in the district of Nadia ..	3,83	45
2. Conservation of private forests and afforestation of private waste lands.	1,85	2,30
3. Acquisition and afforestation of waste lands. ..	4,28	5,00
Total .	9,96	7,75

Irrigation.

Items.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate, 1948-49.
1 Rukri Khal Irrigation Scheme in Bankura district ..	25	19
2 Harahatuganj drainage project in 24 Parganas district	25	3,00
3. Silt clearance of Dunia Khal in Midnapore district ..	30	2,00
4. Trans-Damodar Internal Drainage Scheme in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah.	1,20	3,75
5. Kulai Khal Irrigation Scheme in Bankura district .	30	38
6. Silt clearance of Jibanti and Banki rivers in Murshidabad district.	42	1,00
7. Hinglow River Embankment Scheme in Birbhum district	30	..
8. Jampoi Irrigation Schemes in Jalpaiguri district .	34	1,90
9. Re-excavation of Saraswati Khal in districts of Hooghly and Howrah	80	4,00
10. Soadighi-Gangakhali Drainage Scheme in Midnapore district.	1,00	8,00
11. Berai Canal Irrigation Scheme in Bankura district	1,00	5,00
12. Subankar Danra Scheme in Bankura district ..	75	5,00
13. Putrangi Irrigation Scheme in Midnapore district .	40	1,60
14. Jhargram Irrigation Scheme in Midnapore district ..	75	4,00
15. Dolong Irrigation Project in Midnapore district .	..	5,00
16. Amta drainage project in Howrah district ..		1,00
17. Cut connecting the river Kunti and Chandannagore ditch in Hooghly district.		2,00
18. Minor Irrigation Scheme in Birbhum district ..	.	41
19. Drainage and Flushing Scheme in Murshidabad district	..	50
20. Bidyadhari-Peali Scheme in 24-Parganas district ..	63	..
21. Preparation of Master plan for drainage of Calcutta and surrounding areas.	2,25	5,73
22. Development of River Research Institute ..	41	4,50
23. Planning of comprehensive Irrigation and Drainage Projects.		2,00
Total ..	11,35	60,96

Police.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Items.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate 1948-49.
Establishment of Police Wireless Headquarters at Tollygunge	.	2,00

Education.

Items.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate 1948-49.
1. Immediate Plan of Sibpore Engineering College ..	2,12	3,00
2. Grant to Jadavpur College	1,55	40
3. Strengthening of Headquarters staff for supervision of the new system of education . ..	8	8
4. Physical Instructresses of Training Schools and Colleges for Girls	3	7
5. Scheme for sending students abroad ..	2,87	7,36
6. Increasing the salaries of Primary School Teachers ..	32,04	24,61
7. Expansion of training facilities for graduate men and women teachers . ..	14	2,32
8. Training of staff for Basic Primary Training School	36	1,00
9. Basic Training School . .	5,97	5,00
10. Introduction of Basic Education ..	10,50	5,50
11. Primary Training College		1,00
12. Adult Education .. .	69	5,00
13. Sibpore Engineering College Final Plan		2,00
14. Technical High Schools		5,25
15. Engineering School for Diploma Courses		2,00
16. Secondary Education .. .	.	3,00
17. Expansion of Girls' Secondary Education .	40	2,70
18. Equipment of private Colleges . .	2,00	
19. Equipment and machinery for Government Colleges	1,60	3,40
20. Extension of Presidency College	..	2,00
21. Increasing efficiency of Primary School Inspection and strengthening of staff . ..	.	1,73
22. Nursery School and Classes	..	10
23. Colleges for Women	75	1,80
24. Reorganisation of Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta	5	1,10
25. Youth Welfare and provision of facilities for physical exercises	..	2,10
26. Hostel buildings in rural areas	..	1,00
27. Educational Survey and Planning	..	50
Total ..	61,15	84,02

Medical.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Items.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate, 1948-49.
1.	Increase in the number of rural dispensaries and establishment of Public Health Units	2,00	1,03,00
2.	Maintenance of Auxiliary Government Hospitals .	25,00	72,00
3.	Rehabilitation and improvement of existing hospitals .	..	10,00
4.	Study leave ex-India for Officers of the Provincial Medical Service (Upper)	..	30
5	Establishment of a temporary Medical College in the Lake area in Calcutta with a temporary 1,000 bedded hospital (Provincial share)	11,00	26,00
6	Provision of an Infectious Diseases Hospital in Calcutta	..	1,00
7	Children's Ward in Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta .	60	1,00
8	Creation of an Ambulance Service	20	50
9	Control and prevention of Venereal Diseases	2,18	3,73
10.	Establishment of T. B. Sanatorium		4,68
11	Establishment of a T. B. Hospital at Kanchrapara	5,96	10,68
12	Establishment of a rural Nursing Service and improvement of nursing system	.	5,82
13	Conversion of Campbell Medical School, Calcutta, into a College and provision of 100 additional beds		5,82
14	Improvement of Pharmacy and Pharmacy Training		1,41
15	Improvement of Jadavpur T. B. Hospital		1,94
16.	Planning Committee for Medical Relief		1,00
	Total .	46,94	2,48,88

Public Health.

	Items.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate, 1948-49.
1.	Rural water supply	8,00	31,40
2.	Water-supply and drainage in municipal areas ..	2,00	12,56
3.	Control of Malaria	..	5,00
4.	Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme	50	3,00
5.	Malaria control in the fringe area of the Salt Lakes to the east of Calcutta.	3,22	4,13
6.	Anti-leprosy Scheme	3,00	8,00
7.	Comprehensive Planning of rural water-supply and other public health measures.	..	1,00
	Total ..	16,72	65,09

Agriculture.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Items.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate, 1948-49.
1. Establishment of a Central Livestock Research-*cum*-Breeding station at Haringhata.	10,00	25,37
2. Improvement of Livestock Industry	3,71	7,73
3. Goat Multiplication Scheme	5	..
4. Improvement of Agricultural School at Chinsura	11	25
5. Development of Publicity and Propaganda Organisation of Agriculture Department.	30	64
6. Expansion of commodity grading centres ..	8	33
7. Scheme for development of Agricultural Marketing	8	29
8. Soil Survey	17	66
9. Station for trial of new potato hybrids at Bhanjang in Darjeeling district.	4	14
10. Scheme for control of disease in potatoes in plains and in hills	19	29
11. Running of Brooklyn Ice plant and cold storage	96	4,50
12. Anti-erosion experiment by Visva-Bharati .	17	17
13. Crop Survey Work . .		5,40
14. Agricultural Research .		50
15. Scheme for the establishment of a dry cow salvage farm.	..	1,00
16. Tank Improvement .. .	10,00	20,00
17. Establishment of an Agricultural College		2,00
18. Agricultural Planning		1,00
19. Survey for extension of potato cultivation ..	.	50
Total .	25,86	70,77

Veterinary.

Provision of better facilities for Veterinary aid in Calcutta and its suburbs.	12	53

Co-operation.

1. Reorganisation of the staff of the Co-operative Directorate.	60	5,00
2 Improvement of supply of milk to the city of Calcutta through the Calcutta Co-operative Milk Societies' Union.	1,14	14
3. Rehabilitation of cottage industries on Co-operative basis.	3,28	3,94
4. Co-operative Training and Model Co-operative Colony	33	5,64
5. Development of Co-operative Fisheries	15	9
6. Organisation and development of the Co-operative Alliance	52	9
7. Organisation and development of Co-operative stores and banks.	27	1,09
8. Establishment and development of Multi-purpose Societies.	29	5,14
9. Establishment of Co-operative Farms	15	61
Total ..	6,73	21,74

Industries

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Items.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate, 1948-49.
1.	Appointment of Power Engineers and staff for development of electricity.	1,30	2,50
2.	Reorganisation of the Department of Industries ..	45	1,26
3.	Reorganisation of the Ceramic Institute ..	1,91	3,83
4.	Office of the Adviser on location of Industries .	9	..
5.	Reorganisation of the Department of Sericulture .	..	5,00
6.	Scheme for Sericultural Training	..	1,00
7.	Reorganisation of the Textile Institute, Serampore	71	6,27
8	Reorganisation of Government Silk Conditioning House.		65
9.	Expansion and reorganisation of the Tanning Institute, Calcutta.	.	6,78
10.	Reorganisation of Industrial Research Laboratory		3,00
11	Promotion of *Gur* industry	19	57
12	Promotion of hand-made paper industry	1,00	50
13	Establishment of a Technical School in Darjeeling ..		4,60
14	Promotion of Khadi industry .	60	4,00
15	Establishment of a Sales Emporium	32	35
16.	Establishment of a Technical School at Asansol .		2,00
17.	Reorganisation of the Industrial Museum	50	10
18	Reorganisation of the two existing Weaving Schools		1,70
19	Reorganisation of the Silk Technological Institute at Berhampore.	25	1,25
20.	Increased grant for Industrial Research ..		1,00
21.	Expansion of Mulberry cultivation in Darjeeling Hills	.	20
22.	Establishment of a Technical School at Jalpaiguri .		2,00
23.	Provincialisation of Bishnupur Technical School .		1,75
24.	Provincialisation of Burdwan Technical School ..	..	3,20
25.	Planning Committee for Heavy Chemical Industries in collaboration with Bihar and Damodar Valley Corporation.	1,00	5,00
26.	Planning for Industrial Development . ..	.	4,00
27.	Land acquisition for a Higher Technical Institute		5,00
	Total ..	8,32	67,51

Fisheries.

	Items.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate, 1948-49.
1.	Development of Tank Fisheries	10	69
2.	Sunderbans Abad areas fishery development scheme	..	29
3.	Establishment of a technological station for experiments in fish processing and utilisation of fish wastes.	..	1,64
4.	Planning for development of Fisheries	..	50
	Total ..	10	3,12

Cinchona.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Items.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate, 1948-49.
1. Higher Technical Training of Overseers	..	7
2. Research into improved methods of Quinine manufacture.	..	55
3. Higher Technical Training of Quinologist	..	6
4. Cultivation of Medicinal plants	.	30
Total	..	98

Labour.

1. Establishment of a conciliation machinery for settling industrial disputes, development of Trade Union on sound lines and opening of new Labour Welfare Centres.	64	1,68
2. Calcutta Labour Journal	3	40
Total	67	2,08

Miscellaneous.

1. Peace-time Fire Service	6,00	9,00
2. Establishment of Community Kitchens		1,00
3. Grant for all-round rural development		2,00
Total	6,00	12,00

68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.

Mor Reservoir Project in the districts of Birbhum and Murshidabad.	40,00	86,04

71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

1. Multiplication of quality potato seeds at Rungbull Farm in Darjeeling and in the plains.	1,00	3,00
2. Establishment of six Seed Multiplication Farms	1,50	5,00
3. Establishment of one Jute Seed Multiplication Farm	..	3,50
Total	2,50	11,50

72—Capital outlay on Industrial Development.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

Items.	Estimate for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948.	Budget Estimate, 1948-49.
1. Exploitation of Coastal and Estuarine Fisheries and provision of Fishing Fleet	3,80	2,16
2. North Calcutta Rural Electrification Scheme	4,00	32,40
3. Participation in the Government of India's Scheme for manufacture of Fertilisers.		15,00
4. Diesel Electric Pool	50	3,19
5. Organisation of Silk Reelers' Co-operatives	3,50	13,80
6. Development of Salt Production ..	.	5,00
7. Kharagpur Midnapore Electrification Scheme		2,63
8. Increased provision for aid to Industries		5,00
Total	11,80	79,18

81—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account.

Development of Provincial Roads . ..	17,65	1,33,24
Construction and improvement of National Highways	8,00	45,00
Deduct—Recovery from the Central Government for National Highways . .	−8,00	−45,00
Total	17,65	1,33,24

82—Capital Account of other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account.

1. Kanchrapara Area Development Scheme	19	50,00
2. Re-housing of bustee-dwellers and constitution of a Housing Board for the purpose; Improvement of slums under the Bengal Slum Improvement Act, 1946	6	20,00
3. Housing for middle-class people		50,00
4. Improvement of Transport facilities in Greater Calcutta	.	50,00
Total .	25	1,70,00

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think no other business will be transacted today. I adjourn the House till 3-45 p.m. tomorrow.

Adjournment.

The House was accordingly adjourned at 5 p.m. till 3-45 p.m. on Wednesday, the 18th February, 1948, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of ndia Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 18th February 1948, at 3-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble SRI ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 57 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Export of cattle from Murshidabad to Pakistan.

*2. **Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department aware—

(i) that a large number of cattle is being exported from Murshidabad to Pakistan areas, and

(ii) that there is a serious shortage of milch cows as well as cattle meant for agricultural needs in the Province?

(b) If so, what immediate steps, if any, do Government intend to take to prevent the export as referred to in (a) (i)?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: (a) (i) মুর্শিদাবাদ জেলার কয়েকটী হাট মারফৎ বিহার এবং অন্যান্য প্রদেশের গবাদি পশু পূর্ব্ববঙ্গে রপ্তানি হয়। ইহা বহুদিন প্রচলিত ব্যবসায়ের ধারা অনুযায়ী হইতেছে। ভারতীয় ইউনিয়ন হইতে পাকিস্তানে এরূপ রপ্তানীর কোন অস্বাভাবিক বৃদ্ধি হইতেছে কি না তদ্বিষয়ে দৃষ্টি রাখা হইতেছে।

(ii) পশ্চিমবঙ্গে যথেষ্টসংখ্যক গবাদি পশু নাই।

(b) কোন অস্বাভাবিক অবস্থা দেখা দিলে রপ্তানী বন্ধ করার বিষয়ে আবশ্যকীয় ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা হইবে।

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOWDHURY: অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন, স্যার, বিহার ছাড়াও অন্যান্য প্রদেশের গবাদি পশু পূর্ববঙ্গে রপ্তানি করা হয় বলে বলা হয়েছে। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি, অন্যান্য কোন্ প্রদেশ হইতে মুর্শিদাবাদ জেলার হাট মারফৎ এই গবাদি পশু রপ্তানি হয়?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: উড়িষ্যা।

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOWDHURY: পশ্চিম বঙ্গে যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক গবাদি পশু নাই বলে বলা হয়েছে; যদি তাই সত্য হয় তবে পাকিস্থানে বা অন্য যে কোন প্রদেশে গবাদি পশু মুর্শিদাবাদ থেকে যায় কেন? এবং বাংলাদেশের এই অভাব দূর করার জন্য যে কোন প্রতিকারের ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা বাংলা সরকার বিবেচনা করেন কি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: Standstill agreement থাকা অবস্থায় আমরা বিশেষ বাধা দিতে পারি না। খুব abnormal অবস্থা যদি হয়, ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটের উপর order আছে, বন্ধ ক'রে দেবার জন্য।

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOWDHURY: Standstill agreement আছে বটে, কিন্তু খুলনা থেকে মাছ কলিকাতায় আসে না। মাছ যদি খুলনা ও গোয়ালন্দ থেকে কলিকাতায় আসা বন্ধ থাকে তাহ'লে পাকিস্থানে গরু রপ্তানি বন্ধ করবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: যদি কোন প্রদেশ অন্যায় করে থাকে তাহ'লে আমাদেরও অন্যায় করতে হবে, তার কোন মানে নাই। তাছাড়া এ সম্বন্ধে আমরা Government of Indiaকে refer করেছি। এ সম্পর্কে কি করা কর্তব্য তা এখনও পর্য্যন্ত কোন নির্দ্দেশ পাওয়া যায়নি।

Sri KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানেন কি, মুর্শিদাবাদ ছাড়াও জলপাইগুড়ি ও পশ্চিম বঙ্গের অন্যান্য জেলা হইতে পূর্ব্ব পাকিস্থানে প্রচুর গবাদি পশু চালান হচ্ছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: হাঁ, মালদহ ও দিনাজপুর হ'তে কিছু কিছু চালান হয়।

Sri KANAILAL DE: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলেছেন, মুর্শিদাবাদের কোন কোন হাট হ'তে বিহার এবং অন্যান্য প্রদেশের গবাদি পশু রপ্তানি হয়, পশ্চিম বাংলার কোন গরু রপ্তানি হয় না, তাহ'লে তিনি কি বলতে পারেন যে ঐ হাটে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের কোন গরু যায় না?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: এই প্রদেশেরও গরু যেতে পারে। যেমন বিহারের গরু সেখানে যায়, আবার এই প্রদেশের গরুও সেখানে যেতে পারে। কারণ সবরকম গরু হাটে কেনা বেচা হয়

Sri ANANDILALL PODDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to what action he proposes to take for the import of milch cows, considering the serious shortage?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: Import of milch cow সম্বন্ধে এখনও পর্য্যন্ত বিশেষ কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয়নি, তবে আপনারা শুনেছেন এই যে Haringhatta scheme আছে তাতে ষাঁড় এবং গাই দুই রাখা হবে এবং তার দ্বারা দুগ্ধ সরবরাহ সম্বন্ধে কিছু কিছু ব্যবস্থা হবে। এছাড়া আর কিছু এখন বলা যায় না।

Sri ANANDILALL PODDAR: What will happen in the meantime between the period of now and the Haringhata scheme, how our children are to drink milk in the meantime?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: এখন আপাততঃ যেভাবে চলছে, সেইভাবেই আরও কিছু দিন চলবে। তারপর বিহার প্রদেশ থেকে পরে অবাধে আনা চলতে পারে।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলেছেন যে বিহার এবং উড়িষ্যা প্রদেশ থেকে গবাদি পশু পাকিস্থানে রপ্তানি হয় মুর্শিদাবাদের মধ্য দিয়ে। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করছি তাঁকে, তিনি এ বিষয় কি অনুসন্ধান করেছেন যে উড়িষ্যা এবং বিহার প্রদেশে যে সমস্ত গবাদি পশু আছে, সেগুলি বিহার এবং উড়িষ্যার প্রয়োজনীয়তার অতিরিক্ত আছে, না, ঘাটতি আছে?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: উড়িষ্যা গভর্ণমেণ্ট নূতন একটা আইন করেছেন যে উড়িষ্যা প্রদেশ হ'তে গবাদি পশু আর আসতে পারবে না। বিহার সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ কিছু জানি না, তবে বলতে পারি বিহার থেকে এখানে গরু আসে।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: যেমন উড়িষ্যা গভর্ণমেণ্ট সেপ্রকার ব্যবস্থা করেছেন, বিহার ও অন্যান্য প্রাদেশিক গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি সেই রকম ব্যবস্থা করে, পশ্চিম বঙ্গে গবাদি আমদানী বন্ধ করে দেন তাহ'লে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কি করবেন? এবং গবাদির অভাব মোচনের জন্য কোন পরিকল্পনা করেছেন কি না সেটা জানতে চাই।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: এ সম্বন্ধে কোন প্রকার আইন করা হবে কি না, সে সম্বন্ধে India Governmentএর কাছে নির্দ্দেশ চাওয়া হয়েছে।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: আমি আইনের প্রশ্ন এখানে জিজ্ঞাসা করছি না। যেমন উড়িষ্যা গভর্ণমেণ্ট গবাদি পশুর রপ্তানি বন্ধ করেছেন, তেমনি ভবিষ্যতে অন্যান্য প্রদেশও যেখান থেকে গবাদি পশু আসে তা তাঁরা বন্ধ করতে পারেন, এটা জেনে পূর্ব্বাহ্ণে কোন ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা হয়েছে কি না যাতে গবাদি পশুর অভাব মোচন করা যায়—সেটার সম্বন্ধেই আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করছি।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: এই ব্যাপার আমাদের বিবেচনাধীন আছে এবং এ সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা চলেছে।

Shaik MOHAMED RAFIQUE: Supplementary question, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there is a cattle surplus in Eastern Pakistan and such surplus cattle are brought to Murshidabad for sale in the cattle market?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: পাকিস্থানে গরুর সংখ্যা কি পরিমাণ আছে, বলতে পারি না।

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বলেছেন, মুর্শিদাবাদ জিলার কয়েকটি হাট মারফৎ পূর্ববঙ্গে গবাদি পশু রপ্তানি হয়। সেটা যখন হাট, মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বলবেন কি পূর্ববঙ্গের গরুও সেখানে বিক্রয় হয় কি না এবং তা বিহার ও অন্যান্য প্রদেশে চলে যায় কি না।

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: সে সম্বন্ধে আমার কিছু জানা নেই।

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOWDHURY: Supplementary question, Sir. মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের উত্তরের দ্বিতীয় অনুচ্ছেদে বলা হয়েছে যে পশ্চিম বঙ্গে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ গবাদি পশু নেই এবং আমাদের দেশে যথেষ্ট দুধের অভাব আছে এবং প্রায় ৮।৯ লক্ষ টাকার পরিমাণ গুঁড়া দুধ আমাদের আমদানী করতে হয় বিদেশ থেকে। সেই টাকা দিয়ে পাঞ্জাব ও যুক্তপ্রদেশ থেকে বা বিহার থেকে গরু এনে দুধের আমদানী বাড়াবার প্রচেষ্টা সম্বন্ধে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বিবেচনাকরবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: সেই সমস্তই বিবেচনাধীন রয়েছে। যখন final বিবেচনা হবে, তখন আপনাদের suggestionও বিবেচনা করা হবে।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Supplementary question, Sir যখন এখানে দুধের ঘাটতি থাকায় বিদেশ থেকে গুঁড়া দুধ আমদানী হয় এবং তা দ্বারা স্বাস্থ্যের যখন অবনতি হচ্ছে এবং যদি তা হয়, তবে সেটা বন্ধ করবার কোন পরিকল্পনা করেছেন কি?

The Hon'ble Sri JADABENDRA NATH PANJA: সে সম্বন্ধে বিবেচনা করা হচ্ছে, কিন্তু সম্প্রতি যে সে অভাব মোচন হবে, তা' আশা করা যায় না।

Complaint against the Second Munsif of Kandi, Murshidabad.

*3. **Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any grievance from the members of the Bar as well as the public regarding the conduct of the Second Munsif of Kandi in the district of Murshidabad; and

(*b*) if so, do the Government contemplate taking steps to remedy the grievances?

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: (*a*) Yes. Representations have been received from the Secretaries of the Berhampore and Kandi Bar Associations.

(*b*) The matter is receiving attention.

Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA: Has the High Court been moved in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Yes, the High Court has been informed.

Sri KANAI LAL DE: অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন, Sir কি natureএর complaint বা অভিযোগ পাওয়া গেছে, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: একটা মন কষাকষির ভাব সম্বন্ধে অভিযোগ পাওয়া গেছে।

Sri KANAI LAL DE: আর কিছু নয়?

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: সমস্ত বিবৃতি বিবেচনাধীন আছে।

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: অতিরিক্ত প্রশ্ন, Sir. এই যে মন কষাকষির কথা বললেন, তা কাদের সঙ্গে?

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: অনেক হাকিম ও Bar এর memberদের মধ্যে।

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The West Bengal Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan Barman.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please let him introduce the Bill first?

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I want to raise this point of order before the Bill is introduced. I will refer you to section 299 of the Government of India Act, which lays down the procedure that must be followed when Government proposes to introduce a Bill for compulsory acquisition of land. Section 299 lays down that no person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law, and in (2) it says that the law should provide payment of compensation for the property acquired and fix the amount of compensation, and it lays down the procedure relating to compensation. But, Sir, I would draw your attention particularly to No. (3) which says that no Bill or amendment making provision for the transference to public ownership of any land for the extinguishment or modification of rights therein including rights or privileges in respect of land revenue shall be introduced or modified in either chamber of the Dominion Legislature without the previous sanction of the Governor-General or in a chamber of the Provincial Legislature without the previous sanction of the Governor.

Sir, we want to know whether this previous sanction of the Provincial Governor has been obtained prior to the introduction of the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been obtained.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: When it has been obtained, I want to know whether the country is entitled to know that the sanction has been obtained or only the Speaker of the House should be satisfied that it has been obtained. Section 299 is clear that it should be obtained, and my submission is that the country should know that the previous sanction of the Governor has been obtained before the Government propose to legislate on the compulsory acquisition of land. Here the Governor and the Government are two distinct things. Here the Government may decide to do one thing, but the 1935 Act holds that the right of the individual to continue in uninterrupted possession and enjoyment of his property is to be so valued as sacred that before the Council of Ministers come to any decision they must apprise of their intention to the Governor, and the Governor and the Council of Ministers after applying their mind may come to two independent decisions on the same subject that the Government would be authorised to acquire the land for public use.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: What is the point of order, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: The point of order is, whether the sanction of the Governor has been obtained.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: It is not a point of order; it is a point of information. And I would submit on that point of information, as it has been already stated, that the sanction of the Governor has been obtained, and so far as the public are concerned, since the Bill has been published it has been done so after conforming to all the prerequisites; and you may take it that it has been done properly and all rules have been conformed to unless the honourable member is in a position to state that the sanction has not been obtained. But when the information has been supplied that the sanction has been obtained, my submission is that there can be really no point of order raised.

Janab ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, has the Government any objection to read out that permission in this House?

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, may I submit that the request made by the honourable member is not really tenable. He might remember that a member of the Assembly asked your predecessor about a year ago in this House as to what was the procedure by which a private member could know whether the recommendation of the Governor had been obtained. Your predecessor was pleased to observe that when the Speaker had allowed a Bill to be introduced it might be presumed that he had seen to it that all the procedural regularities and necessities had been gone through and all the formalities had been observed; and that was the guarantee that the Governor's sanction had been obtained. I think, Sir, that should close the matter and the formal sanction of the Governor need not be read out.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the moment the Bill is introduced it is presumed that the necessary formalities have been observed, and when the honourable member enquired as to whether the Governor's sanction had been obtained, the moment it was stated that that sanction had been obtained the matter was closed. I do not think therefore that it is necessary to say anything in this connection.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, I beg to introduce the West Bengal Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948.

(Secretary then read the short titlte of the Bill.)

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: I beg to move that the West Bengal Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: On a point of order, Sir. My point of order is precisely whether this Legislature is competent to limit, modify or alter the provisions of a Central Act. If you see clause 7, which deals with compensation, it reads: "Wherever any land is acquired under section 4 there shall be paid compensation the amount of which shall be determined by the Collector in the manner and in accordance with the principles set out in sub-section (*1*) of section 23 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894"—this is a Central Act, and then follows:—

"Provided that the market value referred to in clause first of sub-section (*1*) of section 23 of the said Act shall, in respect of any land acquired under this Act, be deemed to be the market value of such land on the date of publication of the notice referred to in sub-section (*1*) of section 4:

"Provided further that if such market value exceeds by any amount twice the market value of the land on the 31st December, 1941, on the assumption that the land had been at that date in the state in which it in fact was on the date of publication of the notice referred to in sub-section (*1*) of section 4, the amount of such excess shall not be taken into consideration."

Sir, this is directly contrary to the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act to which this Bill has referred in six or seven places. In fact, it is a subterfuge by which the Provincial Government seeks to modify, alter and amend and nullify and annul the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act which is an Act of the Central Legislature.

Sir, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons we find that in consequence of the partition of Bengal it has become urgently necessary to obtain powers for Government so as to ensure at short notice and fair price—please mark these words "fair price"—procurement of lands required for public security, facilities for communication and transport and for maintaining supplies and services essential to the life of the community. Sir, all these are perfectly legitimate objects for which land can be acquired—and in some instances they are laudable objects - but Government, when in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, states that it will be prepared to pay fair price for land acquired compulsorily from the people, it goes on in a proviso to say that the fair price shall be twice the market value as in 1941. When the Government was prepared to buy gold at more than twice the market value as in 1941 and the Minister would be willing to purchase a motor car at twice the market value, why is it that Government will not be willing to pay more than two times the market value of 1941? Sir, all these objects for which this Bill is purported to have been introduced are covered by the Land Acquisition Act. What is the necessity, Sir, of trying by this method to limit the provisions of the 1894 Act? If you find, Sir, as I submit you ought to, that this is an attempt by the Provincial Government to modify and to restrict the application of provisions of a Central Act, I hope you will be pleased to rule that this is *ultra vires* and, therefore, this Bill is not sustainable in the Provincial Legislature.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I submit that the point of order raised by my honourable friend opposite is really no point of order. He has tried to make out a case that this Bill is really not within the competence of the Provincial Legislature and, as such, is out order. He said, Sir, what is the necessity for this Bill? May I submit that the question of necessity is a different matter altogether. We shall have to find out whether it is within the competence of this Legislature to enact such a Bill into law. My submission, Sir, is that if you refer to section 299 of the Government of India Act, you will find specifically stated there. "Neither the Federal nor a Provincial Legislature shall have power to make any law authorising the compulsory acquisition for public purposes of any land, or any commercial or industrial undertaking, or any interest in, or in any company owning", etc., etc., "unless the law provides for the payment of compensation for the property acquired and either fixes the amount of the compensation, or specifies the principles on which, and the manner in which, it is to be determined". It is, therefore, clear from this section that it is quite within the competence of the Provincial Legislature to enact such a Bill only if there has been made provision in the body of the Bill for fair compensation in accordance with section 299. Sir, that is the first point on which I rely and I submit that this Bill is quite within the competence of the Provincial Legislature.

Secondly, I draw your attention to List II of the Seventh Schedule, Legislative Lists: If you refer to item 9 of List II, you will find that item 9 of the Provincial Legislative List is "Compulsory acquisition of land". Therefore, it has been made quite clear that it is only the Provincial Government—I say, Sir, it is only the Provincial Government—which can legislate in this matter and I would submit that the Central Government has no right or jurisdiction so far as this matter is concerned. I would, therefore, say that in view of the fact that compulsory acquisition of land is entirely a provincial subject, the Provincial Legislature and the Provincial Legislature alone is competent to legislate on the subject.

Sir, I would also refer you to item 21 of List II. There it has been mentioned: "Land, that is to say, rights in or over land, land tenure, including the relation of landlord and tenant, and the collection of rents; transfer, alienation and devolution of agricultural land; land improvement and agricultural loans; colonisation; Courts of Wards; encumbered and attached estates; treasure trove", etc. All these are items for provincial legislation. Therefore, in view of these facts, I submit that it is quite within the competence of this House to legislate on the subject and you would be pleased to rule Mr. Khuda Bukhsh's point of order out of order.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: May I be permitted to elucidate the point that I made before you give your ruling. My point was not whether it was within the competence of the legislature to legislate but the subject of acquisition. I am aware quite as much as my honourable friend is aware that it is within the competence of the Provincial Legislature to legislate on the subject. The point I wanted to make out was whether it was in effect an alteration of the provisions of an existing Act which was also applicable over Bengal. At present land is acquired under the Land Acquisition Act and in the acquirement of that land Government has to follow a prescribed procedure and the Government has to pay compensation as laid down by the Land Acquisition Act. If you find that by this section 7 the Provincial Government seeks to amend or to alter the provisions of that Act, then, Sir, it is in effect trying to amend the provisions of a Central Act. That is my point of order If you find that it is an attempt to alter the provisions of a Central Act, you will rule that it is *ultra vires* and that cannot be done.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: May I submit, Sir, that it has been specifically laid down in section 299 that we have to lay down certain principles. That is the only limitation placed on the functions of the Provincial Legislature and what we have done in this Bill is that we have only laid down that the principles which we have to follow are the principles which have been mentioned and enunciated in the Land Acquisition Act. Therefore, Sir, if we take a leaf out of the Central Act, it does not by itself make this *ultra vires* or vitiate this Bill. Therefore, I submit that as it has been laid down in section 299 that the principles on which compensation should be given must be mentioned in the Bill, we have done only that much, viz., we have mentioned the principles that are to be enunciated in connection with the grant of compensation and the principles are those which have been followed in the Land Acquisition Act. Therefore, Sir, I think this Bill is quite in order and does not in any way go beyond the jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislature.

Mr. SPEAKER: In my view this Bill is within the purview of this Legislature and I do not agree with Mr. Khuda Bukhsh's point of order. The subject after the Act of 1935, has come within the purview of the Provincial Legislature and the Provincial Legislature is now quite competent to deal with the same. When the Land Acquisition Act was passed it was passed prior to 1935. At that time this list was not there but after the Act was passed the list is there and the list empowers the Provincial Government to pass legislation on this subject. Therefore, in my view it is within the competence of this legislature.

So far as Mr. Khuda Bukhsh's objection to second proviso to section 7 is concerned, in my view section 299 clearly says that there should be compensation and the compensation may be fixed by the Act or the principles may be laid down. I find that so far as the principles are concerned, they have been laid down in this proviso and I do not find that that offends against section 299. I, therefore, hold that this Bill is in order and it is within our competence to pass this Bill.

Does anybody want to speak on the consideration motion also?

(No response.)

(The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan Barman that the West Bengal Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration was then put and while the motion was being agreed upon, Mr. Speaker observed:)

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry I find that there are three amendments—one for circulation and two other for Select Committee, and I think they will be moved. Therefore, I ask Mr. Khuda Bukhsh to move his amendment.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, were the amendments moved? If the amendments were not moved before you were on your legs to take a decision, it should be presumed that the amendments have not been moved.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: The Hon'ble Speaker has already permitted that the amendments should be moved. I feel that after the Hon'ble Speaker's permission has been given to move the amendments, the question raised by my friend opposite does not arise. Therefore, I propose to move——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order So far. I believe, the practice in this House was that the Speaker used to call the amendments What I said here is this: "Does anybody want to speak on the question of consideration?"

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: After the motion for consideration has been moved and when the Hon'ble Speaker has given an opportunity to the members of the House, it is for members to get up and move amendments of which they might have given notice. No invitation for speech is necessary. When the motion for consideration is before the House, it is certainly within the right of any honourable member to get up and move the amendment of which he may have given notice. But if no one gets up, it is presumed that it is not intended to move the amendment

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move —

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. No doubt what my honourable friend has said should be followed, namely, that if anybody wants to move an amendment, he should stand up before and say "I have got an amendment and I want to move it" Here I am sorry I have not called the attention of the members with regard to any particular amendments. Therefore, I feel that an opportunity should be given to them to move their amendments and I allow this without creating any precedent on the point and I think the House has no objection

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: All right, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Without creating any precedent I ask Mr. Khuda Bukhsh to move amendment No 1

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move by way of amendment that the West Bengal Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th of May, 1948

Sir, I have had already occasions to mention that as the objects and reasons enumerated in this Bill all come under the Land Acquisition Act, I feel that there was no necessity for the presentation of this Bill for acquirement of land in Bengal alone. Land Acquisition Act is of all-India applicability, and land has been acquired, is still being acquired and will be required even if this Bill were not there for the said purpose. Sir, the most controversial portion of the Bill—and, in fact, that is the only reason for the introduction of this Bill—is the portion by which it is intended to limit the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, i.e., the second proviso to

section 7(*1*). Sir, this is revolutionary inasmuch as Government do not want to pay compensation more than twice the market value of 1941. This, I am emphatic and I know, the country will not accept and the country should be allowed to express its opinion When the cost of living index has gone up by three hundred to four hundred per cent., Government only propose to give twice the market value of land acquired for the purposes enumerated in the Bill. Sir, this will not be accepted by the country and the country should be allowed to express an opinion to Government whether the people would be prepared to swallow the fact that they will be deprived of their land—that their land will be, I was going to say, confiscated at only twice the market value of the land. Therefore, I propose that the Bill be circulated and opinion elicited thereon and the Bill should come up before the House after Bengal has agreed that such a Bill is at all necessary.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: In answer to the motion for circulation I would like to say and remind the honourable members of this fact that it is not on every point that the community can allow the bare question of laws of supply and demand to determine the prices. Sir, it is known when the market price of essential foodstuffs goes up, there is a limit which the State is entitled to set in order to save the community—there control becomes necessary, even subsidised foodstuffs become necessary, for the life of the community. Sir, land, particularly which grows foodstuffs, is of very great importance, and in the situation of today when everything soars to a high and very high level indeed, it is necessary that the State should intervene and acquire land for the purposes which are vital to the life of the community In that view the price of land shall not be allowed to soar to such a pitch as my honourable friend might have liked It has been said that it is a revolutionary measure. If my friend says so, then this Government would accept that it is a revolutionary Government I should say, in order to effect changes in conditions which have been in the past ruinous to the life of the community Today in the present situation land is of prime importance, particularly so in the setting of West Bengal Province. Therefore, what the Government aims at is to curb the opportunities of profiteering on land, on acquired land in order to further the various State projects which are vitally necessary for the life of the community. I, therefore, hope that it would not be necessary for Government to face any difficulty and all those who have land within their possession—land which has been lying without the proper use that can be made of it—ought to volunteer as a part of their patriotic duty to help Government to acquire that land, so that that land can be made the best use of, and on this I can say with all the sense of responsibility I can command that public opinion is known It would be mere dilatory work on the part of the Government and of this House if this measure is allowed to be delayed further on the plea of circulation for public opinion. The public are clamouring for the acquisition of land for making the best and social use of it possible, and in that view I consider the motion for circulation for the purpose of eliciting public opinion quite unnecessary, and in that view of the matter I commend this motion to be rejected by the House. I, therefore, think that we should proceed straightway with the consideration of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, I oppose the amendment.

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that the West Bengal Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th of May, 1948, was then put and lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: As regards your second amendment, Janab Khuda Bukhsh, you have not obtained the consent of Sri Dhirendra Narayan Mukherji and Mr. G. C. D. Wilks.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I propose to omit those two names since I have not been able to obtain their consent. I have obtained consent of all other members. As regards quorum, since the number of members has decreased, I beg to fix the quorum at five.

Now, Sir, I beg to move by way of amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

(1) Sri J. C. Gupta,

(2) Sri Satish Chandra Bose,

(3) Sri Nishapati Majhi,

(4) Janab Muhammad Rafique,

(5) Janab Jasimuddin Ahmed,

(6) Mr. C. E. Clarke,

(7) Sri Jyoti Basu,

(8) Mr. Daniel Gomes,

(9) The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Land and Land Revenue, and

(10) Janab Muhammad Khuda Bukhsh,

with instructions to submit their report by the 15th May, 1948, and that the quorum of the Select Committee be fixed at five.

Sir, this Bill is of a controversial nature as is proved by the number of amendments that have been sent in by all shades of opinion in this House. You have noticed, Sir, that as many as 19 amendments have been sent by members belonging to all shades of opinion in this House. Sir, I find that Sri Anandilal Poddar has sent in amendments. Sri Shyamapada Bhattacharji on the Government side has also sent in amendments and all these amendments are regarding the notorious clause 7. So I suggest that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee wherein, in an atmosphere of sympathy and give and take, members of the Select Committee could come to an agreement and present an agreed Bill before the House and the House would then be able to accept the Bill with less acrimony and with a better heart.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, I oppose this amendment of Janab Muhammad Khuda Bukhsh to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. This is a short measure and it is an urgent piece of legislation. It is of a temporary nature and it will remain in force only for 2/3 years. On account of the urgency of the situation this Bill should be passed at an early date. The honourable member is aware that in consequence of the partition of Bengal, serious matters, new problems are cropping up daily and at the present moment immediate necessity has arisen for undertaking construction of strategic roads providing direct communication between Northern, Central and Southern parts of the Province of West Bengal. In the interests of public safety this Bill should be passed expeditiously and if we refer this Bill to the Select Committee it will be deferred unnecessarily. So without delaying this matter the Bill should be passed immediately and as it is a short term measure it should be settled here in the chamber.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: The Hon'ble Minister has not stated the urgency of the measure.

Janab ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI (rose to speak).

Mr. SPEAKER: After the Minister I do not think you are entitled to speak on this motion.

Janab ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I thought that the Hon'ble Minister would explain the point of view of Government in this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Anyhow the Hon'ble Minister has replied and you should have risen earlier than him.

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—

(1) Sri J. C. Gupta,
(2) Sri Satish Chandra Bose,
(3) Sri Nishapati Majhi,
(4) Janab Muhammad Rafique,
(5) Janab Jasimuddin Ahmed,
(6) Mr. C. E. Clarke,
(7) Sri Jyoti Basu,
(8) Mr. Daniel Gomes,
(9) The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Land and Land Revenue, and
(10) Janab Muhammad Khuda Bukhsh,

with instructions to submit their report by the 15th May, 1948, and that the quorum of the Select Committee be fixed at five, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—6.

Abdur Rahman, Janab, A.F.M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Janab.
Husan Ara Begum, Janab.
Khoda Bukhsh, Janab, Muhammad.
Mahmmad Sayeed Mia, Janab.
Molla Mohammad Abdul Halim, Janab.

Noes—39.

Bandopadhaya, Sri Pramatha Nath.
Banerjee, Sri Susil Kumar.
Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra.
Barman, The Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan.
Basu, Sri Hemanta Kumar.
Bhandari, Sri Charu Chandra.
Bhattacharyya, Sri Shyamapada.
Bose, Sri Satish Chandra.
Chakravarty, Sri Satish Chandra.
Choudhury, Sri Annada Prosad.
Das, Sri Radha Nath.
Das Gupta, Sri Khagendra Nath.
Dass, Sri Kanailal.
De, Sri Kanai Lal.
Dolui, Sri Harendra Nath.
Dutt-Mazumdar, The Hon'ble Sri Niharendu.
Ganguli, Sri Bepin Behari.
Gayen, Sri Arabinda.
Ghosh, Sri A. K.
Gupta, Sri J. C.
Haldar, Sri Kuber Chand.
Mahanty, Sri Charu Chandra.
Maiti, The Hon'ble Sri Nikunja Behari.
Majhi, Sri Nishapati.
Majumdar, The Hon'ble Sri Bhupati.
Mal, Sri Iswar Chandra.
Mallick, Sri Ashutosh.
Mandal, Sri Bankubehari.
Mandal, Sri Krishna Prasad.
Mookerjee, The Hon'ble Sri Kalipada.
Murarka, Sri Basantlal.
Naskar, The Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra.
Panja, The Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath.
Poddar, Sri Anandilal.
Pramanik, Sri Rajani Kanta.
Ray, Sri Kamal Krishna.
Roy, Sri Jajneswar.
Sen, Sri Debendra Nath.
Sinha, The Hon'ble Sri Bimal Chandra.

The Ayes being 6 and the Noes 39, the motion was lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: As regards the next motion, I have not received the consent of the members whose names have been proposed, and, therefore, it is out of order.

I put now the main motion again to vote and the previous one stands cancelled.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan Barman that the West Bengal Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

Sri KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: With your permission, Sir, I beg to move that in clause 3(*1*), lines 5 and 6, after the word "communication" the words "and for irrigation and drainage" be inserted.

Sir, I am sorry I do not want to move it.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: I think, Sir, he has already moved the amendment, and if it is to be withdrawn it requires the leave of the Chair as well as of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as this amendment is concerned, Mr. Das Gupta, do you want leave to withdraw it?

Sri KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Yes, Sir

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave has been asked to withdraw the motion. Is there any objection?

(No objection was raised.)

The motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Sri AMAR KRISHNA GHOSE: With your permission, Sir, I beg to move the following short-notice amendment:—

> That in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 3, in lines 5 and 6, for the words "and communication", the words "communication, irrigation or drainage" be substituted

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move that the following further proviso be added to clause 3(*1*), namely:

> "Provided further that not less than one calender month's notice of the Provincial Government's intention to requisition any land shall be given to the owner."

The wording of sub-clause (*2*) is: "An order under sub-section (*1*) shall be served in the prescribed manner on the owner of the land and where the order relates to land in occupation of a tenant also on such tenant".

Here the prescribed manner is left to the rule-making power of Government, but I say we should settle it here and now that Government shall not give under the rule-making power less than one calender month's notice. The land may be under occupation and the man in occupation may be evicted from that land with a notice shorter than one week. If we leave the matter to the Government to be settled by their rule-making power, he may be evicted by a notice shorter than even one week. To provide against that contingency, Sir, we must here settle what notice shall be given to the owner of the land before he is asked to quit, before he is asked to make over possession of the land. Therefore, I suggest not less than one calender month's notice shall be given to the owner to make over possession of the land to the Government.

Sir. I hope my amendment would be accepted and with these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir I oppose this amendment of Janab Muhammad Khuda Bukhsh on the ground that if this

amendment is accepted, the very purpose of this Bill will be frustrated. There is a provision in the Land Acquisition Act that after requisition time shall be given to the parties for determination of values and for possession, etc. After requisition this question arises but before requisition this sort of time cannot be allowed. If this be allowed then it will frustrate the very object of this Bill. So I oppose the amendment.

(The motion of Sri A. K. Ghose that in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 3, in lines 5-6, for the words "and communication" the words "communication, irrigation or drainage" be substituted, was then put and agreed to.)

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that the following further proviso be added to clause 3(*1*), namely:—

> "Provided further that not less than one calendar month's notice of the Provincial Government's intention to requisition any land shall be given to the owner", was then put and lost.

The question that clause 3, as amended, do stand part of the Bill was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—35.

Bandopadhaya, Sri Pramath Nath.
Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra.
Barman, The Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan.
Basu, Sri Hemanta Kumar.
Bhandari, Sri Charu Chandra.
Bhattacharyya, Sri Shyamapada.
Bose, Sri Satish Chandra.
Chakravarty, Sri Satish Chandra.
Choudhury, Sri Ananda Prasad.
Das, Sri Radha Nath.
Das Gupta, Sri Khagendra Nath.
Dass, Sri Kanailal.
De, Sri Kanai Lal.
Dolui, Sri Harendra Nath.
Dutt-Mazumdar, The Hon'ble Sri Niharendu.
Ganguli, Sri Bepin Behari.
Gayen, Sri Arabinda.
Ghose, Sri A. K.
Ghose, Sri Bimal Comar.
Gomes, Mr. D.
Gupta, Sri J. C.
Mahanty, Sri Charu Chandra.
Maiti, The Hon'ble Sri Nikunja Behari.
Majhi, Sri Nishapati.
Majumdar, The Hon'ble Sri Bhupati.
Mal, Sri Iswar Chandra.
Mallick, Sri Ashutosh.
Mandal, Sri Bankubehari.
Murarka, Sri Basantlal.
Naskar, The Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra.
Panja, The Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath.
Pramanik, Sri Rajani Kanta.
Ray, Sri Kamal Krishna.
Roy, Sri Jajneswar.
Sen, Sri Debendra Nath

Noes—6.

Abdur Rahman, Janab, A.F.M.
Abdur Rahaman Siddiqi, Janab.
Husan Ara Begum, Janab.
Khuda Bukhsh, Janab, Muhammad.
Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Janab.
Molla Mohammad Abdul Halim, Janab.

The Ayes being 35 and the Noes 6, the motion was carried.

Clause 4

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 4(*1*), line 3, after the words "it in such manner" the expression "consistent with sub-section (*1*) of section 3" be inserted.

Sir, section 4 says, "Where any land has been requisitioned under section 3, the Provincial Government may use or deal with it in such manner as may appear to it to be expedient ... " The word "expedient" is very vague and the Government may put the land requisitioned or eventually acquired after that to any use that it may deem expedient. We have a glimpse of what the Government might feel tempted to do from an amendment that was tabled by an important member of the Government which reads as follows (though it has not been moved it is interesting):—"or for purpose of rehabilitation and development". Sir, if this is an insight into the mind of Government members that land acquired for public purposes should be employed for rehabilitation then, Sir, the very character of the Bill is frustrated and lost, and therefore, Sir, to ensure that the statement of objects and reasons shall be strictly adhered to the land taken for a public purpose and compulsorily acquired from the possession of the poor

tenants shall be employed only for such purposes as would be consistent with the objects and reasons stated in the Bill. So I hope that Government will see nothing objectionable in this and will accept my amendment.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, I oppose this amendment on the ground that the expression "consistent with sub-section (*1*) of section 3" is served by sub-clause (*1*) of clause 3. I think this amendement is superfluous and so it cannot be accepted.

The motion of Janab Md Khuda Bukhsh that in clause 4(*1*), line 3, after the words "it in such manners" the expression "consistent with sub-section (*1*) of section 3" be inserted, was then put and lost

The question that clause 4 do stand part of the Bill, was then put and agreed to.

Clause 5

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 5(*2*), lines 4 to 6, the words beginning with "as reside" and ending with "the land is situate" be omitted.

Sir, here the manner of serving of notice is laid down It says that "the Collector shall also serve notice in the manner prescribed on the occupier (if any) of such land and on all such persons known or believed to be interested therein, or to be entitled to act for persons so interested" But here the condition is "as reside" or have agents authorised to receive service on their behalf within the revenue district in which the land is situate You know, Sir, that Bengal has been partitioned, and many people have on that account been displaced People owning land in this part of the province may have migrated to the other part, to another district. It will be very hard on them if only such persons who reside within the revenue jurisdiction of the district where the land is proposed to be acquired should be served with notice and people who have gone out should not get any notice at all Here Government should try to ensure service of notice on the owner It the person is not traceable then the question becomes a different matter But where the person is traceable and the man has migrated to a district other than his own it should be the duty of Government to serve the notice on him and to ensure that the notice reaches him But here Government want to take power and they do not want to serve with notice the owner of the land who may have migrated to another part of Bengal and there the person will have to suffer for no fault of his own I want the Hon'ble Minister to give an assurance that he will apply all diligence and care to search for the man who is the real owner of the land which he proposes to acquire.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, I oppose this amendment on the ground that this expression is in the Land Acquisition Act. It is already provided in the Act Otherwise there will be no service of summons and in that case no case will be disposed of. I, therefore, think that this amendment cannot be accepted

The motion of Janab Md Khuda Bukhsh that in clause 5(*2*), lines 4 to 6, the words beginning with "as reside" and ending with "the land is situate" be omitted, was then put and lost

The question that clause 5 do stand part of the Bill, was then put and agreed to.

Clause 6

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir I beg to move that in clause 6(*2*), line 1, after the words "Possession of such land" the words "in like order and condition as when requisitioned" be inserted.

Sir, here this section lays down the procedure of derequisitioning land and making over possession of land to the owner. The land had been

requisitioned with the ultimate purpose of being acquired, but later on it was decided by Government that the land should be released from requisition. But if in the meantime Government had altered the land and had suffered it to be used in such manner as was detrimental to the interest of the owner, then I submit the land should be made over to the owner in the condition in which it was taken over from him, and it is fair that when Government wants to deprive a man of his property and when subsequently Government in charity wants to give him back his property it should also in its charity decide to give it back in the condition in which it was taken from him.

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, I oppose this amendment on the ground that when there is provision for compensation such questions do not arise. If there be any damage to the land the owner will be entitled to compensation when the land will be returned to him.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: For that he will have to file a suit. Government will not of its own volition give compensation That is what I want to avoid I want that Government should give compensation of its own initiative, of its own volition.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: If there is any damage Government will pay compensation. So there is no need for such provision in the Bill. I, therefore, think that the amendment cannot be accepted.

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that in clause 6(2), line 1, after the words "Possession of such land" the words "in like order and condition as when requisitioned" be inserted, was then put and lost

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move that the following proviso be added to clause 6(2), namely :–

> "Provided that the Provincial Government shall, on the request of the person entitled to possession of such land, remove any structures or masonry work that may have been erected on the land "

Here I am thinking of the air-strip and aerodromes or runways and such like that the Government may have to build on that land and after the Government has done with the land the Government decides to derequisition the land and to make over possession of the land to the owner. Sir, the Minister has just now said that Government would be prepared to pay compensation for any damage done to the land. But, Sir, for that damage the owner of the land will have to go through a lot of technicalities and formalities and he will probably have to contest his claim for compensation in a court of law. But here, Sir, the owner of the land, instead of taking damage in rupees, annas and pies, may require the Government to demolish any structure or to take away the strip or runway or any other masonry work that the Government had necessity to have built on the land. Sir, this is fair and I hope the Minister will see his way to accept my amendment.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: I oppose this amendment on the ground that when the requisitioned land is derequisitioned the owner of the land will get compensation for any damage done to the land. But in the case of any masonry or any other work done by the Government, Government will naturally take away those structures because when there be any structure it will be constructed at the cost of Government and when the land will be derequisitioned Government cannot but take away such structures.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Government will also take away the runway, etc.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Certainly.

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that the following proviso be added to clause 6(*2*), namely:—

> "Provided that the Provincial Government shall, on the request of the person entitled to possession of such land, remove any structures or masonry work that may have been erected on the land,"

was then put and lost.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 6(*4*), lines 3 and 4, for the words "on and from the date of such publication" the words "after one calender month from the date of such publication" be substituted.

Sir, here the Bill says, "When a notice referred to in sub-section (*3*) is published in the Official Gazette, the land specified in such notice shall cease to be subject to requisition on and from the date of such publication and shall be deemed to have been delivered to the person entitled to possession thereof; and the Provincial Government shall not be liable for any compensation or other claims in respect of such land for any period after the said date."

Sir, the clause contemplates that the person is either an Hon'ble Minister, or an M.L.A., or a literate person who is also in the habit of reading Official Gazette so that as soon as the notification is published in the Official Gazette it would come to his notice and he would go to the spot to take possession of his land. All this, I should say, is rather a tall order. A common peasant of Bengal is neither in possession of an Official Gazette nor is he always on the spot to take possession of the land. That is why, Sir, I have proposed that the person should be given one calendar month's notice from the date of publication so that some kindly gentlemen may tell him that "Your land has been derequisitioned and you should within a month from this day take over the possession of your land". It is very hard, Sir, for him to do that. It may be that he has left the place and from the date of the publication—from the date when the land stands derequisitioned—the Government washes its hands off it and it is not liable for anything done to the land from that date. Therefore, I hope my amendment would be accepted.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, I oppose the amendment on the ground that it is already provided in the Land Acquisition Act. This amendment cannot be accepted also on the ground that if after derequisition time is allowed for one month Government will have to bear unnecessary compensation when they actually do not retain the land. So after notification in the Official Gazette the liability of the Government ceases. If one month's time is allowed it will involve unnecessary expenditure on the part of Government. Therefore, I oppose the amendment.

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that in clause 6(*4*), lines 3 and 4, for the words "on and from the date of such publication" the words "after one calendar month from the date of such publication" be substituted, was then put and lost.

The question that clause 6 do stand part of the Bill, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—39.

Bandopadhaya, Sri Pramatha Nath.
Banerjee, Sri Susil Kumar.
Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra.
Barman, The Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan.
Basu, Sri Hemanta Kumar.
Bhandari, Sri Charu Chandra.
Bhattacharyya, Sri Shyamapada.
Bose, Sri Satish Chandra.

Chakravarty, Sri Satish Chandra.
Choudhury, Sri Annada Prosad.
Das, Sri Radha Nath.
Das Gupta, Sri Khagendra Nath.
Dass, Sri Kanailal.
De, Sri Kanai Lal.
Dolui, Sri Harendra Nath.
Ganguli, Sri Bipin Behari.

Gayen, Sri Arabinda.
Ghosh, Sri A. K.
Ghosh, Sri Bimal Comar.
Gupta, Sri J. C.
Haldar, Sri Kuber Chand.
Himmat Singka, Sri P. D.
Mahanty, Sri Charu Chandra.
Maiti, The Hon'ble Sri Nikunja Behari.
Majhi, Sri Nishapati.
Majumdar, The Hon'ble Sri Bhupati.
Mal, Sri Iswar Chandra.
Mallick, Sri Ashutosh.
Mandal, Sri Bankubehari.
Mandal, Sri Krishna Prasad.
Naskar, The Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra.
Panja, The Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath.
Pentony, Mr. L. R.
Platel, Mr. R. E.
Pramanik, Sri Rajani Kanta.
Ray, Sri Kamal Krishna.
Roy, Sri Jajneswar.
Sen, Sri Debendra Nath
Sinha, The Hon'ble Sri Bimal Chandra.

NOES—5.

Abdur Rahaman, Janab A. F. M.
Husan Ara Begum, Janab.
Khuda Bukhsh, Janab Md.
Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Janab.
Molla Mohammad Abdul Halim, Janab.

The Ayes being 39 and the Noes 5, the motion was carried.

Clause 7.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 7(*1*), the second proviso be omitted.

Sir, this is a proviso that seeks to limit and alter and modify the Land Acquisition Act, and it is in this particular that this Act is different from the Land Acquisition Act Sir, the poor peasant of Bengal will perhaps be willing to part with his land for the larger interest of the State when the State wants his land for building up a military camp or a police outpost to guard the border line, or wants his land for bettering the communication by making a highway, or wants his land for an aerodrome or such other things. But it will be cruel to him to be asked that he should part with his land at twice the market value prevailing in 1941 when he is perhaps called upon to purchase the necessaries of life at 300 to 400 per cent. of 1941 prices and when it means probably his last bigha of land. Under the scheme by which Government has to acquire it he will have to part with his land at twice the market value of 1941, but I say, Sir, if he has to part with his land he must have the current market value. I have already characterised it as revolutionary but now I say it is worse than revolutionary inasmuch as it savours almost of confiscation of property. Nowhere in the world such thing has been done when compensation is decided upon. The compensation should be fair. The Bill in its Statement of Objects and Reasons has stated "at fair price", but it blows hot and cold in the same breath, and it says, it should be the fair price, and then it says, the fair price is twice the price as it was in 1941. Everything is selling at higher rate than twice the rate of 1941 But the poor peasant of Bengal who has half a bigha or a bigha of land has to sell it to Government at twice the price of 1941. This is not the thing in the Land Acquisition Act. Everywhere else the Hon'ble Minister has been pleased to say that this is a part and parcel of the Act I of 1894 and therefore he cannot accept my amendment because it is so worded in the Land Acquisition Act. But, Sir, in this particular case he will have to deviate from what is there in the Land Acquisition Act and what the Land Acquisition Act provides is a fair price, namely, the market value. But the Hon'ble Minister deviates from that and only proposes to give him twice the 1941 price. In this connection all sections of the House agree that this should be omitted. You have called out the name of Sri Anandi Lal Poddar who is not here and of Sri Shyamapada Bhattacharyya who has declined to move his amendment for pressure from the party to which he has to submit. Sir, you can guess the mind of the House that this should be omitted. I hope this has been brought home to the Minister and he will be prepared to accept my amendment.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, with your permission I beg to move two short notice amendments to clause 7.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that in the second proviso to sub-clause (*1*) of clause 7, line 2, the word "twice" be omitted.

I also beg to move that in the second proviso to sub-clause (*1*) of clause 7, line 3, for the figure "1941" the figure "1946" be substituted.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BRAMAN: Sir, I oppose the amendment of Mr. Khuda Bukhsh and I accept the short notice amendments of Mr. A. K. Ghose. I should like to say to my friend opposite that Government is ever ready to pay fair prices.

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that in clause 7 (*1*) the second proviso be omitted, was then put and lost.

The motion of Sri A. K. Ghose that in the second proviso to sub-clause (*1*) of clause 7, line 2, the word "twice" be omitted, was then put and agreed to.

The motion of Sri A. K. Ghose that in the second proviso to sub-clause (*1*) of clause 7, line 3, for the figure "1941" the figure "1946" be substituted, was then put and agreed to.

The question that clause 7, as amended, do stand part of the Bill, was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 5-25 p.m. till 3-45 p.m. on Thursday, the 19th February, 1948, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 19th February, 1948, at 3-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Sri ASHUTOSH MALLICK) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 53 members.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

The West Bengal Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948.

Clause 8.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, with your permission I beg to move that in paragraph (*a*) of sub-clause (*1*) of clause 8, for the word and figure "section 6" the word and figure "section 7" be substituted.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: We have not been quite able to follow the amendment.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sinha, will you please read it again?

Mr. JYOTI BASU: May I suggest that some explanation should be given when short-notice amendment is moved, otherwise we cannot follow?

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Sir, this is a formal amendment. I beg to move that in paragraph (*a*) of sub-clause (*1*) of clause 8, for the word and figure "section 6" the word and figure "section 7" be substituted.

The motion was then put and agreed to

The question that clause 8, as amended, do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 9.

The question that clause 9 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 10.

The question that clause 10 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 11.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: May I have your permission to move the short-notice amendment?

Sir, I beg to move that in clause 11 before the words "No decision" at the beginning, the words "save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act" be inserted.

Sir, since an explanation was demanded of the short-notice amendments, may I explain this amendment? It is only a formal amendment. It has been laid down in section 11 that "No decision or order made in exercise of any power conferred by or under this Act shall be called in question in

any Court", but in section 8 we have said that reference to court is possible. Therefore, unless we add these words, viz., "save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act", the powers given to the Courts under section 8 would be nullified. Therefore these words are being added to clause 11 whereby we are giving the powers to Courts as provided in section 8. That is the object of the short-notice amendment.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Bimal Chandra Sinha that in clause 11 before the words "No decision" at the beginning, the words "save as otherwise expressly provided in this Act" be inserted, was then put and agreed to.

The question that clause 11, as amended, do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 12.

The question that clause 12 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 13.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move that the following proviso be added to clause 13, namely:—

"Provided that all rules made by the Provincial Government shall be laid before the Provincial Legislature".

Sir, here in the rule-making powers Government have reserved unto themselves the power to make rules without any prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, the manner of service of orders on the owner or occupier of land, referred to in sub-section (2) of section 3, the manner of service of notice, referred to in sub-section (3) of section 5 and sundry other things.

Sir, we know that these rule-making powers are often abused by the Government departments and to provide against that contingency, Sir, I suggest that all rules made under this Act be laid before the Provincial Assembly so that the accredited representatives of the country have a chance to see what rules are being made—whether they are contrary to or whether they are in agreement with the wishes of the people or whether they are in agreement with the purposes set out in this Bill.

Sir, there is precedent also of this procedure. In respect of the Motor Vehicles Act Government agreed that rules made thereunder should be placed before the Provincial Legislative Assembly and also, Sir, there are other Bills where Government have accepted the principle that the rules should be laid before the House. Therefore, Sir, I suggest that my amendment should be accepted by Government.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the proposal put forward here is really redundant because it is one of the universally accepted principles of legislation that only the general principles are laid down in the body of the statute and there must be given some powers to the Provincial Government to make rules without infringing the letter and spirit of the statute. I quite agree with my honourable friend that the Government in certain cases have the chance of misusing the powers, but Sir, no legislation, I submit, can be fool-proof and knave-proof. Therefore, the ultimate test is whether you have confidence in the Government or not because you have to give certain powers to Government if you have to carry legislation into practice.

Sir, I could not really follow the argument of my honourable friend. He said that the rules should be laid before the Assembly. I do not know whether he meant that the rules shall have to be approved by the Assembly or shall have to be laid before the Assembly only for information. Well, Sir, I find that the honourable member says that the rules will have to be laid before the Assembly only for information. If that be the object of this

amendment, I beg to submit that this is really quite unnecessary, because rules are published in the gazette and the gazette is also laid on the Assembly table and is supplied to the members of the House free. Therefore, if the members of the House want to have any knowledge of the rules, they may also go through the gazette and have information on that point. Therefore, Sir, my view is that this amendment should not be accepted.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, may I rise again to clarify the point raised? My honourable friend has said that the gazette is available to the members as also to those of the public who would care to read it. Sir, laying of the rules before the House has an implication. When they come before the Assembly, members can express themselves on them and members can take the Government to task, if they disapprove of those rules, but mere publication in the gazette, Sir, does not give the members that opportunity. What I wanted from Government is an opportunity to be able to express ourselves on the rules made by the Government. My honourable friend is quite right in thinking that my intention was that the rules should not have the prior approval of Government, but the rules made in exercise of the powers given to the Government under this section should be laid on the table, so that the members may have a look at them before they are printed and they can ask questions or probably by a resolution disapprove of a certain rule. And, Sir, in another Bill the same Hon'ble Minister has accepted the principle of laying down the rules on the table.

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that the following proviso be added to clause 13, namely:—

"Provided that all rules made by the Provincial Government shall be laid before the Provincial Legislature",

was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—10.

Abdur Wahid Sarkar, Janab.
Abdur Rahman, Janab A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Janab.
Basu, Sri Jyoti.
Brahmin, Sri Ratanlal.
Khuda Bukhsh, Janab Md.
Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Janab.
Molla Mohammad Abdul Halim, Janab.
Mudassir Hossain, Janab.
Serajuddin Ahammad, Janab.

NOES—37.

Bandyopadhaya, Sri Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra.
Barman, the Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan.
Basu, Sri Hemanta Kumar.
Bhandari, Sri Charu Chandra.
Bhattacharyya, Sri Shyamapada.
Bose, Sri Satish Chandra.
Chakravarty, Sri Satish Chandra.
Choudhury, Sri Annada Prosad.
Das, Srijukta Bina.
Das, Sri Radha Nath.
Das Gupta, Sri Khagendra Nath.
Dass, Sri Kanailal.
De, Sri Kanai Lal.
Dolui, Sri Harendra Nath.
Ghose, Sri A. K.
Ghose, Sri Bimal Comar.
Gomes, Mr. O.
Gupta, Sri J. C.
Haldar, Sri Kuber Chand.
Himmatsingka, Sri P. D.
Mahanty, Sri Charu Chandra.
Maiti, the Hon'ble Sri Nikunja Behari.
Majhi, Sri Nishapati.
Majumdar, the Hon'ble Sri Bhupati.
Mal, Sri Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Sri Bankubehari.
Mandal, Sri Krishna Prasad.
Murarka, Sri Basantlal.
Naskar, the Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra.
Panja, the Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath.
Pentony, Mr. L. R.
Pramanik, Sri Rajani Kanta.
Ray, Sri Kamal Krishna.
Roy, Sri Jajneswar.
Sen, Sri Debendra Nath.
Sinha, the Hon'ble Sri Bimal Chandra.

The Ayes being 10 and the Noes 37 the motion was lost.

The question that clause 13 to stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Amendment No. 19 is dependent on amendment No. 4 which has been withdrawn. So it falls through.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: With your permission I beg to move a short notice amendment.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that in the preamble for the words "and communication" at the end, the words "communication, irrigation or drainage" be substituted."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The question that the Preamble, as amended, do stand part of the Bill, was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the clauses of the Bill have been accepted by the House on the strength of the majority of the Government benches. All the amendments that this side of the House suggested have been rejected on the strength of their majority.

Sir, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons it has been stated that in consequence of the partition of Bengal it has become urgently necessary to obtain powers for Government so as to ensure at short notice and fair price procurement of land for public security, etc. Sir, whether this urgency has evolved or has come overnight, the Hon'ble Minister has not been able to make out a case for urgency. Sir, as I have always maintained and I wish to repeat it here with all the emphasis I can command that all the provisions in this Bill are to be found in the Land Acquisition Act but it differs only in this respect that it provides for speedier acquisition of land. But speedier acquisition can only be justified by urgency. [illegible] has only said that a situation has arisen or that there is urgency, but he has not thought it fit and proper to take the House into confidence and tell us exactly what is the nature of the urgency and in what manner or in what particular the Land Acquisition Act is deficient for his purposes.

Sir, we have tried to improve the Bill in certain respects, but in his hurry—I must say, in his indecent hurry—the Hon'ble Minister has not looked into the amendments with the consideration that they deserve. And, Sir, before this Bill is placed on the Statute Book we are again asking the Hon'ble Minister to avail of this last chance of taking the House into confidence and tell us what exactly is the urgency and what is the necessity that certain provisions of the Land Acquisition Act should be waived and speedier processes be substituted for probably more lengthy processes.

Sir, with the last amendment that I moved for placing all rules made under this rule before the House, I again enter our protest that this should have been done and at this stage I should like to have an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister that though he has had the amendment rejected by his party, he will lay those rules before the House.

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before the Hon'ble Minister replies to the points raised by the members opposite, may I point out, Sir, that in presenting the Bill, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this legislation made out a case for speedy acquisition of land. I think it is unfair to complain that this Bill has been rushed through the Legislature by sheer weight of the majority because, firstly, it must be understood that in the present time when parties are so'id and there must be clear-cut party lines, there is no use complaining about that. We also used to complain on that score for two years, and Hon'ble Ministers from these treasury benches used to put forward the assurance that they would give sympathetic consideration to our suggestions but they used to reject all our amendments. While I do not propose to emulate that

example, I should like to say a few words as regards the reasonableness of this piece of legislation. We should not forget for one instant that the border of Bengal is also the border of India, and that it is therefore necessary to connect the border regions with good roads so that there may be easy movements in all the areas. Secondly, you know West Bengal would become a deficit province and it is necessary for good food procurement to have interior villages connected with towns with a good network of roads. If we go through the ordinary processes of land acquisition, it will take six months or seven months, to say the minimum, before any road construction can be taken up. Therefore I put it before the House if the House desires that six or seven months should elapse before even preliminaries to road construction should be completed. As the rains would intervene, a delay of six months would really mean that it will take one year more to begin construction of roads. Is it the desire of the House that at the present moment there should be no roads, even dry fair-weather roads for food procurement for one good year?

Sir, it is quite understandable that we cannot leave the province in that state of affairs, and if that be so, it is essential that before rains come, there should be at least dry fair-weather roads, and preparations should be set on foot so that we may have good roads within a year. This Bill has been brought with this object in view, and as my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar pointed out yesterday, it should be the patriotic duty of all interested in the stability of the State or in the interest of proper food procurement to see to it that land is voluntarily given up so that we may connect villages with the Central headquarters and other towns in order that there might not be any possibility of famine or possibility of any dangerous activities. I think, it has been made amply clear that this Bill has been drafted with that object in view and that has been stated specifically and clearly in the Preamble. I do not think there is any reason that the powers given in this Bill will be misused because this Bill is after all a limited Bill, limited to three years only.

With these words, Sir, I entirely support the motion moved by my Hon'ble friend, Sri Mohini Mohan Barman, and suggest that this Bill be passed into law.

Sri JYOTI BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had no desire yesterday to participate in the discussions with regard to this Bill which is before us because I felt that it was so vague—the Statement of Objects and Reasons, etc.—that it was not possible to say anything until and unless one heard, especially the Ministers, on this particular Bill and its clauses. I heard them yesterday and today and especially just now I have also heard another Minister on the purpose of this Bill. I feel as Mr. Khuda Bukhsh has rightly pointed out that no case has in fact been made out as to why this Bill was necessary. We are told that for quick irrigation purposes, for roads, food procurement and all the rest of it we need this Bill very urgently. Of course, in the Objects and Reasons they do not say so. This is made out in the speeches of the Ministers. In the Objects and Reasons, as usual, the Government trots out the reason that for public security due to the partition of Bengal and for communication and transport this Bill is necessary, that is, to requisition and acquisition lands, but we do not know—the Ministers have not told us—whether there is a war on between Pakistan and India. Those things are never told us. Yesterday I thought and on first reading of this Bill I thought that probably for the border districts bordering on Pakistan for certain defence purposes the State of West Bengal would need some lands and therefore it would be of limited application. But having heard the Ministers I come to realise that in actual fact it is of far wider application than what I thought at the beginning. The Objects and Reasons, as I have tried to show, do not mean anything, because, for instance, it says that for maintaining supplies and services essential to the life of the community such powers—wide powers—are necessary for the Government. Now, this has nothing to do either with

the partition of Bengal or with the creation of a new State, because it is easy enough for any State at any moment to say that for maintaining supplies such and such powers are necessary and therefore drastic legislation must be gone through. Therefore I feel that no case has at all been made out as to why this Bill is particularly necessary.

We are told that before the rains—that is the most amazing part of it—just now we have been told by another Hon'ble Minister that before the rains this road construction is going to be started. I would like to see this Government doing that particular thing before the rains. We know how the Government moves as far as giving benefit to the ordinary people is concerned. Therefore we shall wait and see for another two months how this road construction is going to start before the rains. If I may say so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is no use trying to bluff us—I use that word and I know what I say—because when it was framed they did not have all this in mind. Now in order probably to hoodwink the people again a short-notice amendment was introduced that for irrigation purpose also to benefit the Kisans they need these powers under this Bill. Again we are told, as always we are told these days, that the State is in danger—for public security. Now, if the Hon'ble Ministers specially are so enamoured of public security, if they so love their country, I do not see why during these three, four or five months all that they have been doing was to squabble amongst themselves for petty offices. Today there is no question of doing service to the people. We heard a few days back that again signatures were being taken by some or other Ministers or people who want to become Ministers. Of course the best thing would be in such a case to make all of them Ministers—those who want to become Ministers—by rotation, if necessary. However, I made out that point in order to show that really this question of public security or the security of the State has nothing to do with the purposes as stated in the Objects and Reasons.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also felt on hearing the speeches that these gentlemen sitting opposite have enunciated a principle here which is very dangerous and which may in future be used for other purposes even if this particular Bill or Act was used for the limited purposes for which it is purported to have been placed before us.

Now, with regard to compensation, that is, clause 7. Yesterday one of the Ministers was very eloquent. He said that somebody paid him a compliment by saying that this was a revolutionary measure and that particular Hon'ble Minister congratulated himself and his Government because he thought that this was really a revolutionary measure. I also feel that it is to some extent a revolutionary measure because here the poverty-stricken people, the ordinary people are told if their land is going to be requisitioned or acquired from them, as it is said in the Bible—Blessed are the poor for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven—they should not ask for more, the rate of compensation in their case should not be higher than what would be in the case of their friends, the rich. That is why we find no distinction whatsoever made. That is their idea of fairness, fair play, fair price and all the rest of it, because we thought in our simple human logic that fair price cannot be the same for all persons. If a rich man's land is taken away from him, I can even suggest that if it is necessary for the State, no compensation shall be paid to him because even then he can carry on his livelihood. But if a poor man's property is taken away from him, then surely the rate of compensation should be much higher than what is given to either a middle class person or a zemindar and so on. But our present Ministers do not believe in that kind of logic because within a very short period of time they have succeeded in forgetting—almost forgetting—the people and therefore according to their present logic they think that parasites should be paid the same compensation as the ordinary toiling people. Of course, it would be, I know, a sacrilege even to suggest to the members sitting opposite, specially those adorning the Ministerial Benches, that compensation need not be paid at all in certain cases, because I know

that in the constitution which has been framed by the Congress it has been laid down that no property shall be taken away from a person without compensating him adequately. I do not of course agree with that point of view but I know that the gentlemen sitting opposite do agree with that point of view because they are the servitors of the rich and they will not and cannot serve the ordinary people. But I would suggest at the same time that even if they did not do that sacrilege, at least there must be some justice left in them, so that they might at some time or other look at the ordinary common people and see that they at least, if their lands are taken away, get something more than what the rich get. But I know that I am shouting in vain. It is not possible that I shall be able to convince them, because some of them have, during the last three or four months, somehow or other got office and power. Office, of course, they have got, but as regards power some of them think that they are already independent and the Britishers are no longer there. All this has turned their heads. So naturally I cannot expect to convince them about my suggestions. But I would ask them: is this the principle—the principle which has been enunciated in this Bill and which on first reading may sound to be very innocuous—which is going to be followed in future with regard to all other measures which may come about during the course of one, two or three years, if they get sufficient time leaving apart their own petty squabbles and quarrels? If they do bring these measures, measures for instance in order to get rid of the zemindari system, then would the same principle be followed, I wonder. And that is why after having heard all the debates I would even at this stage suggest that since, in fact, no case has been made out that they need all these powers, so that within the next two or three months they have to go through some emergent work—since that case has not been made out, I would suggest to them that even at this stage they should not proceed with the Bill but halt here, so that as was suggested, may take this up a little later on after having some more discussion, because some very vital principles are involved. Therefore, I am constrained to say that my vote shall certainly go against this Bill, because all these principles have been violated—principles by which I stand, by which the gentlemen sitting there stood a few months back before they were in office.

Janab ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the very fact that vicarious defences are being offered for the relevancy of this Bill, is enough to convince me of the fact that it was not wanted. Imagine, Sir, bringing forward the argument that because a new frontier has been established on the eastern side of this province and for that purpose roads and all the other paraphernalia of military strategy will be required is an argument that could come out of a brain full of enthusiasm but not good sense. When you think of the frontier from the Bay of Bengal to the confines of Assam and then if you consider the whole military problem and the manner in which the vicarious defence was put before us, had the Finance Minister been here he would perhaps have given up the ghost. Sir, we have heard of Maginot Line. I wonder if we are going to have another. After the financial statement that was presented to us only the other day I feel that the whole thing—to use an Americanism—is bunkum. There are reasons why this Bill is being wanted, but its sponsors are mightily afraid of giving out those reasons to the House. I wish they had come out openly and freely and told us why this Bill is wanted. Sir, we all know that the majority must support the Government: Otherwise the Government would not be there. But to use the power of the majority either by silence on their own part or by refusing to listen to those who have some criticisms to offer shows tendencies which, to say the least of it, are unparliamentary and definitely undemocratic. These are tendencies which honourable members sitting opposite would have described as totalitarian. Sir, I know we are passing through a crisis these days. I am hoping that soon we shall come down to Mother Earth and that very soon we shall begin to realise that even the critic may have sincerity in his heart. He does not criticise merely to criticise, but the duty of the Opposition is to

tell the Government where it is going wrong, to tell the Government why it should not do this and why it should do the other thing. Otherwise there need be no opposition, there need be no legislature; they could sit in their ministerial offices and issue orders. Sir, to mention monsoon as a sort of time limit was another argument which made me laugh. Perhaps there was something in the cheek of the Hon'ble Minister who was using it. We are in February. Monsoon will come soon. Whether roads are built in monsoon and whether irrigation schemes are taken up in monsoon is, to put it again in the most modest manner, laughable. Yes, the whole scheme and plan of roads, irrigation and the thousand and one other things connected with military strategy—I am leaving aside the civil aspect of the matter—to use military strategy as the main argument and simultaneously to talk of procurement and joining the villages with the centres, again establish the fact that there is something up the sleeve of the Cabinet which it is not prepared to divulge to the House.

In these circumstances, Sir, we can only utter our warnings, because we know that the Bill will become an Act in 10 minutes' time from now. Again is it possible to appeal to the new Cabinet to go about their business in a friendlier way—I am repeating this *ad nauseam*—for the simple reason that with our criticism before them they will perhaps be able to reconsider their position on some of the points. All that is uttered from this side of the House need not be brushed aside summarily. There may be sense in it somewhere, because they will themselves agree that a Cabinet or individual Ministers are not infallible It is possible for them to make mistakes, and the best proof of what I am saying, is the fantastic idea that all these schemes will have taken shape before the monsoon and, as I understand, will have come into being within the period of the Bill, three years. Sir, let us go about our business in a more sensible manner than this. I can understand that the partition has created certain problems for us, and we have got to handle them as best as we can, but let us meet them sensibly, let us meet them with generosity or statesmanship for the good of the province which, as the Hon'ble the Finance Minister told us, needs combined effort and united endeavour to reach the goal which he considers will be a glorious one

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our friends opposite seem to find some difficulty to realise the urgency of this measure I do not wish to waste much time of the House in replies or criticisms of all the speeches.

Sir, some of my friends opposite seem to have been neutralised, to start with, in the course of the debate yesterday and, as is their wont, to sit on the fence and then alternately to be on one side or the other. Of course that liberty of theirs must be recognised I do not wish to pursue such vacillating gyrations of that point of view any further. But I wish to say this only that it should have been obvious to my friends opposite what the urgency of this Bill is. In the first place, thanks to all men of good will, we are enjoying comparative peace and tranquillity in this West Bengal province of ours. Here is no question of communalism in our politics any longer: citizens find absolute protection of the State: the State is unsparing of lawlessness and hooliganism, no matter what community the hooligans might belong to. Thanks to that, we have been fortunate so far as this province of West Bengal is concerned. We are also fortunate that in the neighbouring sister province of ours which is now in a separate State, we have got a Government about whose intention I have no doubt that they are absolutely friendly to this their sister province of West Bengal. Sir, we look forward to the best and utmost cordial relations between the Governments of these two provinces, but at the same time it is not possible to shut the eyes of any thinking or seeing people to the fact that very unfortunately the Government of East Bengal does not seem to be able to control the people as it ought to be. Sir, we have read only recently that villages

have been burnt down just a few days ago. We have seen that there are elements of lawlessness there. Incidents have taken place when such elements have crossed the border and created trouble.

Sri J. C. Gupta: On a point of order, Sir. I think criticism of another State in this connection is not permissible.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not permissible.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: No, Sir, I have not said anything against another State. I have said, to start with, that we are very fortunate in having a friendly neighbouring Government, but at the same time I have said that there are elements who have crossed into Indian border, and it is with a view to ensure that in any emergency when such lawless elements who in spite of the best of intentions of the Government transgress all restrictions of law and international decorum our people must be fortified and we must see that they are supplied with good roads so that even citizens having the advantage of good communications may be able to defend themselves against the inroads of marauders whom the Government of East Bengal province, I am sure, decry. But if it is beyond their power to resist these elements, at least our people in the border land who are precariously situated must be able to defend themselves. That is one reason why in the particular region there ought to be good roads for the purpose of seeing that no smuggling out of the province can take place: there is proper arrangement for patrol: there may be proper cordoning to save this province from foodstuff and other essential articles going out illegally, and it is well known that a lot of these free booters are about. When this province is in a precarious state as regards essential necessities and foodstuff, I do not see why there should be any objection to make this provision. There is no question of any panic in this province but at the same time this province is faced with this situation that thousands of people are flocking in as immigrants out of panic. That constitutes an enormous problem for this province, but the same situation does not arise in the case of our sister province. Taking all these points into consideration it is necessary that our Government and our people should be in a position to provide for good roads, good communications, and places where refugees may find shelter, where proper patrolling arrangements may be made so that foodstuffs cannot go out, and where our forces may be in a position to restrain the marauding bands who cross the border.

Sri JYOTI BASU: On a point of order, Sir. There is no such thing in the Bill as housing of refugees. He is talking irrelevant. I think the Hon'ble Minister should read the Bill.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, with all these things happening around us the Government is asking that power should be given to the Government in order to acquire land where works of urgent public importance may be started. An honourable friend of mine opposite was carried away in his enthusiasm; in his enthusiasm for the monsoon, he seems to have skipped over the whole of the winter season, and he is now skipping over the spring season that lies ahead. But all works have to be carried through and carried through straightway, and for these purposes these powers are urgently required.

Sir, beyond this I do not wish to say anything further. With a little bit of imagination on their side it might not have been difficult for our friends opposite to see the urgency of this Bill. There is no question of rushing this piece of legislation through. We have seen on the floor of the House that by a simple validating Bill, seven, eight, nine or ten Ordinances have been converted into law. That is a practice which this Government would never emulate. There is no question of rushing this Bill through. The Bill has been published, notified and circulated; and if any honourable member changing his opinion breaks his neutrality, he is at liberty to do so

to add an interest to the debate. But so far as the relevancy and the urgency of the Bill are concerned, I think it ought to satisfy my honourable friends that it is in the interest of the public of this province that these arrangements should be made immediately and these powers are precisely directed to meet these necessities of Government.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, honourable members of this House are aware that this short and temporary piece of legislation will remain in force for a period of three years and honourable members are also fully aware that in consequence of the partition of Bengal many problems have cropped up which could not be anticipated before. At the present moment good roads are essentially necessary in order to connect the border lands with other parts of the province. This is the time when in the interest of public safety and for providing direct communications and for maintaining services and supplies essential to the life of the community, the Bill is essentially required.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Is it intended to acquire land under this Act for housing the refugees also?

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: No.

Now, that is also the procedure of acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act, but if we follow the principles of the Land Acquisition Act, this work will be deferred and we will not be able to proceed further and in that case practically a year will be lost without any progress or without any work. So, in order to ensure public safety, Government should have power, as in this Bill, to ensure acquisition of land at short notice and also at a reasonable price—reasonable market price.

As regards determination of market value I like to submit that we also provided previously that the market value would be determined according to the market value of the present day or double the market value for the year 1941 whichever is less. But now we see that if we determine the value according to the price of 1941, or double of it, the land-owners will be losers thereby. So, we thought that the price of 1946 would be the fair price and if we take the price according to the present day, that is in 1948, it will be practically a black-market price. Now, the price has risen up to a very high level and it is not the proper price. So, we shall determine the value of the land according to the market value of 1946.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Who will determine the market value—Collector?

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Yes. It is provided in the Land Acquisition Act. The Collector will do that.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: How will he come to know what was the market value in 1946? That needs clarification. What will be the procedure that the Collector will be asked to follow in determining what should have been the price of land or what would have been the price of land in 1946?

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: It is a question to be determined by the Collector. According to the Land Acquisition Act certain valuation is fixed by the Collector and in this matter also the Land Acquisition Collector will fix the value.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: The Land Acquisition Collector will be able to fix the market price because there will be persons present who will be able to testify or adduce evidence, but what will be the procedure to be followed in arriving at a price two years ago?

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: It is rather the concern of the Collector to determine. I think my friend is fully aware that the prices are settled according to the *kobala*—according to the transfer deed.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Transfer deeds of lands that took place in 1946?

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: What value will be determined is a question of evidence. How much the price of the land will be, has rather to be determined by the Collector according to the evidence he will get.

Sir, with these words I commend this Bill for acceptance of the House.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan Barman that the West Bengal Land (Requisition and Acquisition) Bill, 1948, as settled in the Assembly, be passed was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—37.

Bandopadhaya, Sri Pramatha Nath.
Banerji, Dr. Suresh Chandra.
Barman, the Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan.
Basu, Sri Hemanta Kumar.
Bhandari, Sri Charu Chandra.
Bhattacharyya, Sri Shyamapada.
Bose, Sri Satish Chandra.
Chakravarty, Sri Satish Chandra.
Clarke, Mr. C. E.
Das, Srijukta Bina.
Das, Sri Radha Nath.
Das Gupta, Sri Khagendra Nath.
Dass, Sri Kanailal.
De, Sri Kanai Lal.
Dolui, Sri Harendra Nath.
Dutt-Mazumdar, the Hon'ble Sri Niharendu.
Ghose, Sri A. K.
Ghose, Sri Bimal Comar.
Gupta, Sri J. C.
Haldar, Sri Kuber Chand.
Mahanty, Sri Charu Chandra.
Maiti, the Hon'ble Sri Nikunja Behari.
Majhi, Sri Nishapati.
Majumdar, the Hon'ble Sri Bhupati.
Mal, Sri Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Sri Bankubehari.
Mandal, Sri Krishna Prasad.
Murarka, Sri Basantlal.
Naskar, Sri Ardhendu Sekhar.
Naskar, the Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra.
Panja, the Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath.
Pentony, Mr. L. R.
Pramanik, Sri Rajani Kanta.
Ray, Sri Kamal Krishna.
Roy, Sri Jajneswar.
Sinha, the Hon'ble Sri Bimal Chandra.
Walker, Mr. J. R.

NOES—8.

Abdul Wahid Sarkar, Janab.
Abdur Rahman, Janab A. F. M.
Basu, Sri Jyoti.
Brahmin, Sri Ratanlal.
Khuda Bukhsh, Janab Md.
Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Janab.
Molla Mohammad Abdul Halim, Janab.
Muhammad Idris, Janab.

The Ayes being 37 and the Noes 8 the motion was carried.

The Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) West Bengal Amendment Bill, 1948.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, I beg to introduce the Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) West Bengal Amendment Bill, 1948.

(Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) West Bengal Amendment Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration.

Sir, this is a very short measure and it will remain in force for two years. The existing Act whereby the powers in respect of requisitioned lands under the Defence of India Act, 1939, have been retained will expire on the 31st of March, 1948. Unless therefore, a further legislative action is taken in the matter extending the period for the exercise of such powers, it would be necessary for the Government to release all requisitioned lands and buildings to the owners within a very short time on or before the 31st of March, 1948. A large number of requisitioned properties are still being used by Government. Most of the Departments of Government will require these premises even after 31st March, 1948. The honourable members are aware that the housing situation in Calcutta as well as in mofussil towns

has not yet been eased, on the other hand it has become acute as a result of a large number of people coming from the Eastern Pakistan. It has therefore become necessary to extend the period of operation of the existing Act, so that various Departments of Government might retain possession of those lands and buildings for some time more.

With these words, Sir, I commend this Bill for the acceptance of the House.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, we have just heard the Hon'ble Minister tell us that lands and the houses requisitioned for Government use are still under the use of various departments. But, Sir, in proceeding to tell us he has said that the housing problem has taken an acute form and that there is a shortage of house in Calcutta and that there is an influx of refugees from East Bengal. Will the Hon'ble Minister tell us exactly how many houses have been taken under requisition and for what purpose? Will he tell us the names of the departments to which houses have been allotted and the number of houses they have actually in occupation? Sir, we know that certain houses which were originally requistioned have been made over for use of refugees from East Bengal. Sir, is it the purpose of Government to maintain those houses in requisition for the purpose that the refugees from East Bengal may have continued occupation of those houses? In the Bill the Government has said that the houses are under the occupation of different departments Sir, it becomes interesting and it also becomes necessary for this side of the House to know exactly how many houses are there under requisition and how many have been allotted to the departments and how many to each department. The Hon'ble Minister must have those figures with him and also figures showing the houses originally requisitioned by Government for departmental purposes which have been given over to the refugees for occupation.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: There are as many as 459 houses under requisition and they have been allotted to various departments.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Please tell us how many houses have been allotted to each department.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN:

Controller of Vagrancy	4
Calcutta Corporation	40
A. R. P.	6
Education Department	2
Civil Supplies Department	33
Government Office quarters	17
Director of Industries	3
Agriculture Department	18
Police Department	72
Fire Brigade	9
Textile Department	2
Public Health and Local Self-Government Department	8
Controller of Relief	245
Total	459

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: On a point of information, Sir. May I be permitted to ask one or two questions for eliciting information?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has said that 9 houses have been allotted to Fire Brigade——

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: On a point of order, Sir. After the Hon'ble Minister has spoken, I think, a particular subject should be treated as closed; otherwise, the honourable member may go on for any length of time.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, what I am going to make is not a speech, but I want to have a piece of information from the Hon'ble Minister, and I do not see how I am transgressing the bounds of debate.

The department has allotted nine houses to the Fire Brigade. Is this Fire Brigade the regular Fire Brigade of Calcutta or the Auxiliary Fire Brigade? And if it is the latter, is No. 52, Begg Bagan Road included in these nine houses?

(No answer.)

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan Barman that the Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) West Bengal Amendment Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration, was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

The question that clause 3 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 4.

The question that clause 4 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 5.

The question that clause 5 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 6.

The question that clause 6 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 7.

The question that clause 7 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 8.

The question that clause 8 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the Preamble do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) West Bengal Amendment Bill, 1948, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the clauses have been gone through, and they have more or less received the assent of the House, but this requisitioning of private houses causes a lot of hardship to the owners. The solution to the relieving of the congestion is not to continue the requisitioning of houses by Government under stress of emergency, but the solution should be found elsewhere by building more houses by Government themselves and encouraging other people to build more houses so that the congestion may be removed permanently. In those cases where properties from the beginning have been retained by Government since 1939 under requisition order although the owners of properties want to have them back, Government have not done so. I would therefore like to impress upon the House that the houses that are under requisition should be made over to their respective owners as expeditiously and rapidly as possible and also the question of building new houses may be given effect to so that Government may be able to house the people in their own houses.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan Barman that the Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) West Bengal Amendment Bill, 1948, as settled in the Assembly, be passed was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned at 5-10 p.m. till 3-45 p.m., on Friday, the 20th February, 1948, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 20th February, 1948, at 3-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (SRI ASHUTOSH MALLICK) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 54 members.

General discussion of the Budget.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Budget that has been presented the other day will go down in history as a catalogue of empty promises and it will also dash to the ground the hopes that the millions in Bengal had pinned on the present Government.

Sir, in the introductory portion of the Budget the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has mentioned that the housing shortage in towns is very acute owing to sudden influx of population, but, Sir, I find from the Budget that only Rs. 50 lakhs has been provided for relieving the house shortage. Sir, this problem has been engaging the attention of the Government for a long time and it is extremely disappointing that this Government, after the need for this has been brought to its notice so vehemently, has come out with the proposal to spend only 50 lakhs.

Sir, in everything else the Government has raised false hopes and immediately has gone to dash those false hopes to the ground (The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: So much the better. False hopes should be dashed to the ground.) Yes, but why raise false hopes at all.

Sir, in industries when there is need felt everywhere that the basic industries should be nationalised, and I think that was the policy of the party now in power, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister goes to say: "By this it is not suggested that under no circumstances will the Provincial Government venture upon any industrial enterprise on their own account". Sir, it shows that the accepted policy of the Government is not to nationalise but only in certain cases the Government might feel tempted to embark on nationalising industries.

Sir, among one or two points that I find have been duplicated even in the present Budget is the 4½ lakhs for the running of the Brooklyn Ice Plant and Cold Storage Chambers which have been acquired from the Army authorities. I should like to ask the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, is it the same Brooklyn Ice Plant of which we heard in the last Budget of undivided Bengal?

But, Sir, the most glaring omission in the Budget, to my mind, is the Government's failure to provide funds for the increase of the salaries of the Government employees. Here it says: "provision of 1 crore has been made for increasing the emoluments of lower paid Government employees. This increase, I may point out, comes in addition to an increase of 2½ crores per annum provided for" by the Government of undivided Bengal. But, Sir, I should like to draw your attention to a question I recently asked the Government—not this Government but its predecessor in office—regarding whether it had any intention of implementing the recommendations of the Pay Commission. In reply to one of my questions, the Hon'ble Mr. Choudhury replied that they had the intention of implementing the recommendations of the Pay Commission, though he said that they would

do it in their own way and their increase would very nearly approach the recommendations of the Pay Commission but would not be quite the recommendations of the Pay Commission. When I subsequently asked him as to when he proposed to give effect to these, he categorically stated "from the 1st of April". But, I find, Sir, to my utter disappointment and dismay that no provision has been made in the Budget. Sir, when this Ministry came into office we were told that this Ministry will introduce dynamism and will try to do away with the static administration. Sir, I think this Ministry has certainly scored. It has introduced speed and dynamism in going back on the words of the previous Ministry.

Sir, I find that the Government are trying to hoodwink the public and probably take a little applause cheaply. Here it says that Government propose to give assistance to the political sufferers: "We feel that those patriotic persons who suffered and made sacrifices for the cause of the country and hastened the dawn of freedom deserve special consideration from the Government". Sir, it goes on to say: "When all over the world it is found that the war veterans are being helped in many material ways by their Governments, we owe it to ourselves to do what we can to assist these veterans in the fight for freedom". But where is the fund provided for this most laudable object? Sir, instead of implementing the recommendations of the previous Ministry this Ministry has chosen to, shall I say, inflict a homily on the Government workers. Instead of trying to redress their just and legitimate grievances, it has decided to inflict on them a lecture and appeal to their sense of service, to their spirit of service, and so on. And it goes on to say with an affected air of sweet reasonableness "we expect to see our revenues expand and then the question of raising the emoluments of lower paid Government servants will again be considered". They have never said when and how. Sir, the Niemeyer Award has been criticised. Even in the last Budget the last Finance Minister had an occasion to criticise the Niemeyer Award. Sir, it is manifestly unjust and we hope that this Government will do their best to have the Niemeyer Award modified and altered to the advantage of the province.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: The Niemeyer Award has already gone. I have not said about Niemeyer Award.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: You did mention about the Niemeyer Award. And when the alteration has been made after the province has prevailed upon the Centre to modify the Niemeyer Award about the adjustment of income-tax and jute duty, and the province has profited in the transaction, what the Government propose to do with that money it does not say. So I suggest if and when that adjustment does materialise, the Government will proceed to give effect to the promises made by their predecessors in office in that they will immediately raise the emoluments and salaries of their lower paid and the middle class employees.

In the "Labour" chapter—I do not find my Communist friend here; I am quite sure that he will have much more to say on the subject—I find the Hon'ble Finance Minister has provided Rs. 40,000 for the publication of the *Calcutta Labour Journal*. It certainly fulfils one long-standing need, and if the Labour Journal does what it should do then we shall welcome it. But I have a misgiving, I have a sneaking fear in that the Labour Journal may be employed to cause a rift in the ranks of Labour. It is said "it is, therefore, the duty of Government to assist in the development of trade unionism on sound lines". Sir, we have never yet been treated to an enunciation of what the sound lines are, how trade unionism should be developed. I hope my fear will never materialise that this Government will take upon their head to cause a rift in the Labour ranks. I leave my honourable Communist friend to dilate on this subject because he knows more about Labour than I ever pretend to do. Sir, it has been said that the House will observe that the first annual Budget of the province of West Bengal is a deficit Budget, but I cannot understand

how it could be called a deficit Budget, because deficit of one crore that there is, is the price of foodstuffs that the Government hold in stock. Therefore, I should think that the Budget just about balances itself, and therefore what the Government have proposed not to do on that score should have been taken in hand. Sir, we have seen Budgets with even bigger deficits. In the last Budget the deficit was to the tune of Rs. 12 crores or more. But here, Sir, the present Government of West Bengal probably are proceeding on very cautious lines. They do not want to implement the promises and also to carry out the projects that are crying for being carried into effect. Sir, Government members will surely congratulate the Finance Minister on certain good things that he has provided in the Budget, for example, experiment in community kitchens. I do not mean that this side also does not appreciate this. I also congratulate the Finance Minister on this bold experiment. It has removed a long-felt want and I hope that Calcutta will make use of those community kitchens and that the experiment shall prove successful.

With these words I resume my seat.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Vo, Vo, Speaker, তথা শ্রীকথককর্মী—মহাত্মন, I am sorry I am not in a position to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his statement in presenting the Budget for 1948-49. It is a thoughtless statement on a worthless Budget, and it is not worth the paper on which it is written. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from Muslim League benches.) The statement and budget reveal a colossal ignorance of the knowledge of rural and urban economy on which the economic reconstruction of a baby State like West Bengal should be based. The statement is full of slogans and platitudes. If we eliminate the flowery words used in the statement and scrutinise the same in the matter of words, it will reveal an astounding ignorance of the principles of political economy, political science and lesson of history. I must explain myself as to what has led me, a humble faqir, to speak of such a reputed financier as the Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarkar in such disparaging terms. The Hon'ble Minister began by saying "today we breathe the air of freedom and the power to shape our destinies lies in the hands of our people" and he ended his political speech by saying "By insensate outburst of communal frenzy generated by pernicious two-nation theory and its attendant cult of hate have left behind it a trail of misery too deep for words". Does the Hon'ble *Arthasachib* really think that he is breathing the air of freedom in spite of fraternal strife, arson, loot, murder, abduction, slaughter of innocent men, women and children and countrywide conspiracy to kill Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and other great leaders of our country? May I ask why this conspiracy is for? It is to organise and establish a Hindu Raj where men who hold different faiths will have no place. It may be that such people are in majority at present and in the words of Mahatma Gandhi it may be that *bona fide* and genuine Congressmen are in the minority. If, in spite of all these disquieting facts, the *Manyabar Arthasachib* Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker really breathes the air of freedom, he is really a mystery man who finds delight in the contemplation of butchery and other inhuman and devilish actions. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Muslim League benches.) There was such an attempt when the Moghul Power decayed but the rise of Tipu Sultan, Nizam of Hyderabad, and advent of the British Power nipped the conspiracy in the bud. There was such an attempt even before and this dream of Hindu Raj and a faith in the great Shivaji cult was shattered at the third battle of Panipat when the Maharatta Power was broken to pieces. The plausible remedy for preventing the idea of Hindu Raj gaining ground lies in the forming of the Hindu society from which race arrogance and superiority complex will be wiped off. The structure and ideal of Hindu society are such that it is a hard task to liquidate such ideals from Hindu society. The great Arabian Albaruni who stayed in India for 25 years in order to study the different aspects of Hinduism, in his *Safarnama-i*, wrote: "The Hindus are strange people who are difficult to tackle. They say that their religion is best,

their philosophy is best, their science is best and that they are so many gods, they do not tolerate the opinion of others, and others are *Ashurs*, barbarians and savages. The war between *Devs* and *Ashurs* in Hindu mythology will clearly show the ideals of Brahmanical society. Great reformers arose in India to combat this evil of race arrogance and superiority complex which brought untold miseries on the masses of India and generally on the mankind and it seemed that they would succeed, but alas! those great reformers succumbed to the fanatical onslaught of militant Hinduism. It is well known that the greatest of those reformers was Lord Gautama Buddha. His disciples Chandragupta and Asoke set up an ideal administration based on the policy of equality and brotherhood of man and humanity and their influence was felt far and wide, but lo, Sankaracharyya, the Great Hindu hero, arose and drove out Buddhism from the land of their birth and exterminated the followers of Buddha and hell was let loose.

Sri KANAI LAL DASS: On a point of order, Sir. ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, জনাব মুদাচ্ছির সাহেব যা বলছেন সেটা কি বাজেট সম্পর্কিত ব্যাপারে, না অন্য কোন ব্যাপারে ?

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: What do you say? Do you say that it is irrelevant? It is Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker's speech which makes it all relevant. I ask our great and Hon'ble অর্থসচিব Nalini Ranjan Sarker, "Was there then Mr. Jinnah to propagate his two-nation theory? Mahaprabhu Sri Chaitanyadev, Guru Nanakji, Raja Rammohan Roy, Keshab Chandra Sen were born to combat the race arrogance and superiority complex prevalent in the Hindu society. They were all opposed by Brahmanical Hindu society and they all failed. The Brahmanical society won the fight all along the line and no trace of their benevolent faith can be found and the entire Hindu society lapsed into their inherent and former ideals. Well, I should have thought that every man having common sense in him will hold this ideal of the Hindu society for the two-nation theory propounded and sponsored by Mr. Jinnah and his associates. It is the race arrogance and superiority complex as also intoleration of others which are responsible for the insensate outburst of communal frenzy.

This is, Sir, in answer to the great political statement which has been made by Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker, the great *Arthasachib*, and which is nothing but an irrelevant speech.

Now I come to the Budget itself. Does the great *Arthasachib*, Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker, realise what is meant by independence? Mr. Cove, a famous member of the House of Commons of England, said about independence that "independence is a means to an end". And what is that end? That end is to remove the illiteracy, the grinding poverty which is smashing and crushing the entire Indian population. Therefore the justification for getting independence only rests on this that if you are able to remove the poverty of the people, if you are able to remove the illiteracy of the people, if you are able to remove the distress of the people, if you are able to unite the entire people into one whole, then and then only you are entitled to get independence, for you have then used your power towards that end, but I challenge——

Sri RADHA NATH DAS: At least you must give them some time.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: You people understand nothing. You are so many fools. You are mere babies in politics. In the words of Psychology even a sensation has not yet been created in your brains (Laughter). Let me proceed uninterrupted, because I am delivering an *extempore* speech and there is nothing in my hand (Renewed laughter).

Now, Sir, I say with all the emphasis at my command, have you been able to secure the unity of the entire population by which you can maintain your independence? Have you treated all alike—all persons as your

brothers? Have you followed the principles of our great Mahatma Gandhi who was really the Avatar of the present age. After Buddha no greater Indian was born than Mahatma Gandhi. It is said by the Churchmen, the Christians, that while thousands die, death is nothing, but human being is everything. You may mourn, you may lament for Mahatma Gandhi's death, but if you do not follow his principles, if you do not follow his advice and the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi, you are a traitor and the simple cry for the Mahatma will mean nothing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Yes, I am doing so আপনি আমাদের সকলের প্রভু, আপনি যা হুকুম করছেন, আমরা তাই করবো। আপনি যদি বসতে বলেন, তাহ'লে বসে পড়বো।

(A voice এখন বাংলায় বলুন।)

হাঁ, তাই বলছি। আমার মোটামুটি কথা হচ্ছে—আপনারা বোঝেন Independence এর যোগ্যতা আমাদের কিছু মাত্র নাই। Independence এর মানে হচ্ছে— সমস্ত people united হবে—সকলে একত্রীভূত হবে। সমস্ত লোক একমন একপ্রাণ হয়ে দেশের উন্নতি করবার জন্য সর্বতোভাবে চেষ্টা করবে।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: On a point of order, Sir. I know that in this House it is quite permissible for a member to speak in any language he likes—English, Urdu, Persian, Hindi—but I would like to know from you whether it is permissible for any member to speak in ten different languages in the same speech. It is only for my guidance

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Sir, if you order me I shall speak in English but our great leader Dr. Roy ordered me to speak in Bengali (laughter). I have been following him because I take him to be our leader.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Mudassir Hossain, speak in English.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Very well, Sir, I bow to your ruling.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think you have finished.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: No, Sir, I have not even started, Sir. (Laughter.) These are all preliminary remarks; about the budget I have not spoken anything These are all preliminary remarks. As our *Arthasachib* Sri N. R Sarker in his preliminary speech mentioned irrelevant things I also speak like that.

Very well, Sir. Independence—I ask him, is he breathing the free air of independence? (Janab JASIMUDDIN AHMED: No.) No. Has he secured unity of the entire people? The answer is no Has he removed or taken steps to remove the illiteracy of the people? No Has he taken steps to remove the poverty of the people? No. Therefore he does not breathe the air of freedom. It is hypocrisy. I shall just now come down to the region of economics.

(At this stage blue light was shown.)

(A VOICE: আপনার নীল বাতি জ্বলছে।) নীল বাতি জ্বলছে জ্বলুক, ও বাতি আমি Care করিনা। লীগের জন্য থেকে অনুগ্রহ করে সবাই আমাকে exempt করে রেখেছে। সুতরাং আমাকে আর ও একটু সময় দিতে হবে।

Not only here, Sir. In Madras All-India Co-operative Conference in which Dr. Rajendra Prasad presided, the time-limit given was five minutes but to me it was given 25 minutes and the whole House was clamouring for hearing me. (Laughter.) Then, Sir, I speak about agriculture. Now, Sir, I beg to submit that this is a country which has been humiliated, which is under distress, and if we read the economical history of the European countries such as Denmark, Holland, Greece, Germany, what will you find? It has been said by Mr. Wolf in his book on "Agricultural Co-operation" that those Gothic Danes, Slavs, Finns, Germans and

other people who have been humiliated and who were in distress found salvation in agricultural co-operation. It is agricultural co-operation alone which gave them the relief, and it is agricultural co-operation alone which raised the standard of civilisation, which raised the standard of living and whereby the production of every country which took to agricultural co-operation was doubled and trebled.

Sir, after the partition I submitted a note to the then Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. Ghosh, about the introduction of agricultural co-operation which was found so very beneficial in the case of Germany, in the case of Finland, in the case of Poland, in the case of Belgium, in the case of Holland and other European countries, but, Sir, to my utter regret and to my utter surprise that note was never taken note of, and it seems to me that the present Hon'ble Finance Minister who is reputed to be a great economist has not read the history of the economic development of the countries like Germany. Sir, had he known that (Laughter)—it is not a matter to be laughed at, it is a serious matter to which I would draw your special attention because you are known to be one of the cleverest financial magnates of this side of Bengal (Janab Abul Hashem: He belongs to that side.) Now he has come to this side. I do not care whether he belongs to that side. He is our brother. Whether he belongs to West Bengal or East Bengal does not matter. Though his position is higher and my position is humble I have the privilege of calling him a brother because I am a man and believe in universal brotherhood. What have you done to organise agricultural co-operation? I do not think you understand what is agricultural co-operation (Laughter). It is not a matter to be laughted at. I am very, very serious. If you want to remove poverty from the people, if you want to unite the whole people, if you want to double the produce of your country, introduce agricultural co-operation on the lines introduced by Germany, introduced by Holland, introduced by Finland and other European countries, but to my utter surprise, Sir, no such plan has been made for agricultural co-operation which will regenerate the country and which will produce enormous result.

My friend the Hon'ble Finance Minister has said that the influx of middle class people from East Bengal has altered the situation. This is the worst position. You have not understood the implication of such exodus, of such incoming. Sir, the result is that a population of 60 lakhs is fenced in Calcutta within an area of 36 square miles and the rest of the population is in the villages—the district headquarters and subdivisional headquarters may be termed as villages. Sir, the gentlemen who have come from East Bengal are all middle class gentlemen; they are not producers; they will not and cannot help you in production. What we wanted is the immigration of sturdy peasantry which can help us in the production of our food-grains, but instead of that they will eat up whatever West Bengal can produce by its peasantry. So what we want to say is this: Find land for those persons and influence them to till the land and produce more food for themselves as far as the country which they have adopted permits. But if you want them to remain in this province of ours as parasites or only as settlers and feed them from the sources of this province that will be no good. It will further enhance the difficulties and will further impoverish West Bengal which is already a poor province. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says "there is plenty and plenty". But where is the "plenty"? Plenty is nothing. Mere rupee, mere money is nothing.

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN: Will you give me some more time—2 or 3 minutes more? Only 3 or 4 members from this side will speak. Members on the other side are supporters of Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOWDHURY: মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, স্বাধীন বাংলার বাজেট সম্পর্কে আজ কিছু বলার সুযোগ পাওয়ায় অনেক কথাই মনে হইতেছে। সব কথা বলিতে গিয়া অধিক সময় লইতে অথবা ধৈর্য্যচ্যুতি ঘটাইতে চাই না। সর্বপ্রথমেই মাননীয় অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয়কে অভিনন্দিত করিতে চাই। অবশ্য কংগ্রেস মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল কংগ্রেসের ধারা এবং কর্ম্মপন্থা অনুসারেই বাজেট প্রস্তুত করিবেন—করার চেষ্টা হইয়াছেও। প্রশংসনীয় বিষয়গুলির উল্লেখ না করিয়া যে বিষয় কয়টি অধিকতর স্পষ্ট হইলে ভাল হইত ক্রমান্বয়ে ঐ বিষয়গুলির প্রতি অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিবার চেষ্টা করিব। আশা করি উন্নতির পথে এইগুলি সাহায্য করিবে।

কংগ্রেস মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলের প্রথম বাজেটে যে ঘাট্তি দেখা গিয়াছে তাহার জন্য বিচলিত না হইবার আশ্বাস অর্থসচিব মহাশয় দিয়াছেন। পূর্বাপর অবিভক্ত বাংলায় অনেক বৎসর ধরিয়া যে বিরাট ঘাট্তি চলিয়া আসিতেছিল তাহার তুলনায় সত্যই ইহা অকিঞ্চিৎকর এবং কার্য্যতঃ বৎসরান্তে কোন ঘাট্তি নাও দাঁড়াইতে পারে। কলিকাতার এবং সহরতলীর ব্যবসা বাণিজ্য এবং শিল্পকেন্দ্রের দান যদিও এই পট পরিবর্ত্তনের বিশেষ কারণ, তাহা হইলেও যেন কলিকাতা সহরের আমদানীর আশায় অন্যান্য আয়ের পথ অবলম্বন করার অথবা যে সব কর ধার্য্য আছে—যথা বিক্রয়-কর—তাহা আদায় করার চেষ্টায় কোন শিথিলতা না আসে। কারণ জনগণ নিজেদের শোষণ-ব্যবস্থার প্রতি তাহাদের কর্ত্তব্য সম্বন্ধে সচেতন হইলে এবং সরকার সেই কর্ত্তব্যবুদ্ধি জাগ্রত করাইতে পারিলে একমাত্র বিক্রয়-করের আয়ই অনেক বাড়িতে পারে এবং তাহার দ্বারা অন্যান্য কাজেরও সহায়তা হইতে পারে, অথবা কলিকাতা সহর হইতে রাজস্ব আদায় হইতেছে বলিয়া পশ্চিম বাংলার ম্যালেরিয়াগ্রস্ত পল্লীগুলির দাবী যেন উপেক্ষিত না হয়।

কংগ্রেস চিরদিনই বলিয়া আসিতেছে—গ্রামীন অর্থনীতির বনিয়াদ সুদৃঢ় করার মধ্যেই সমগ্র দেশের শ্রী ও সম্পদ নির্ভর করিতেছে। বাজেটে পল্লীর উন্নতির জন্য একাধিক পন্থা অবলম্বিতও হইয়াছে। সর্বাঙ্গীণ গ্রামসেবার জন্য দুই লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। জানি না ঠিক কোন্ পথে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী তাহা কার্য্যে পরিণত করিতে চান। গান্ধীজী তাঁহার জীবদ্দশায় যে স্বপ্ন দেখিতেন তাহাই যেন পথ নির্দ্ধারণে প্রেরণা জোগায়।

পল্লী শিল্পের উন্নতি সাধনের জন্য একাধিক পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করা হইয়াছে। কিন্তু জাতীয় অর্থ-নৈতিক ক্ষেত্রে উহার স্থান কতটা এবং কতদিন তাহার কিঞ্চিৎ আভাষ পাইলে সর্বদিক দিয়া সুবিধা হইত। কংগ্রেসের অর্থনৈতিক কর্মসূচীই কি আমরা অনুসরণ করিব? কতকগুলি লোকের যোগ্যতা বাড়াইবার অজুহাতে বর্ত্তমানে যে সকল লোক যে কাজ করিয়া জীবিকার্জ্জন করিতেছে তাহাদের জীবিকা হরণের ব্যবস্থা যে করা হইবে না সরকার ইহা নীতি হিসাবে গ্রহণ করিবেন কি? অর্থাৎ work-robbing industryতে উৎসাহ না দেখাইয়া work-creating industry কি গড়িবার চেষ্টা করা হইবে? আরও পরিষ্কার করিয়া বলিতে গেলে, চরকা প্রচারের জন্য যেমন চার লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে, তেমনি সস্তায় মিলের কাপড় উৎপন্ন করিবার উদ্দেশ্যে Finance Corporationএর মারফৎ তাহার বহুগুণ অর্থ আবার বরাদ্দ করা হইবে না তো? পল্লী অঞ্চলকে স্বাবলম্বী করার উদ্দেশ্যে নিত্যপ্রয়োজনীয় তৈল অথবা ঘি গ্রামে উৎপন্ন করিবার চেষ্টা করিব, না বৃহদাকারে vegetable ঘি তৈরীর প্রচেষ্টায় আত্মনিয়োগ করিয়া পল্লী শিল্পের বিরোধিতা করিব? হাতে তাঁত বুনিয়া যাহারা জীবিকার্জ্জন করে তাহাদের সংখ্যা, কৃষিজীবী বাদ দিলে ভারতবর্ষে সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা বেশী। Efficiencyর অজুহাতে মিলের তাঁত বসাইয়া তাহাদিগকে বেকার করিব না তো? প্রাদেশিক ক্ষেত্রে এই সব বিষয় পরিষ্কার না হইলে সরকারের পক্ষে জনসাধারণকে এবং কর্ম্মীদিগকে কর্ত্তব্য পথে সচেতন ও উদ্বুদ্ধ করা সম্ভব হইবে না। বাজেটের সঙ্গে এবিষয়ে পরিষ্কার একটি ধারণা জন্মিলে ভাল হইত। সকলেই বুঝিতে পারিতেছেন যে উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনার ভারকেন্দ্র (centre of gravity) কোন্ দিকে। অবশ্য উহা পরিকল্পনার রেখাচিত্র হইতে কতকটা আন্দাজ করা গেলেও সরকারের ঝোঁক কোন্ দিকে তাহা না বুঝিতে পারিলে পরিকল্পনাকে কার্য্যকরী করিবার জন্য যে লোক আসিবেন তাঁহারা যথাযথভাবে উহাকে রূপায়িত করিতে পারিবেন না। কাজেই মূল নীতি সম্বন্ধে প্রাদেশিক ক্ষেত্রেও কিছু একটা ঘোষণা করা অত্যাবশ্যক। অন্যথায় নানারকম বিভ্রান্তি উদয়ের সম্ভাবনা আছে।

মদ্যপান নিবারণ করা কংগ্রেসের একটা প্রধান কাজ। প্রতি শনিবার যেদিন কারখানার শ্রমিকেরা বেতন পায় সেদিন মদ্যপান নিবারণের প্রথম ধাপ হিসাবে মদের দোকান বন্ধ রাখার ফলে প্রায় পচিশ লক্ষ টাকা কমিলেও সরকার তাহা গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন এবং এইভাবে সপ্তাহে একদিন বর্জ্জনের নীতি সরকারের ক্রমে ক্রমে সাত দিনের উপরই আরোপ করার কথা। কাজেই, আমরা আশা করিয়াছিলাম শ্রীযুত সরকারের বাজেটে "শুষ্ক" দিনগুলির সংখ্যা আরো বেশী দেখিব, কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় তিনি সেই দিক দিয়া আমাদিগকে সম্পূর্ণ নিরাশই করিয়াছেন। শুধু তাহাই নহে, নূতন আরও মদের দোকান খুলিবার আবেদনপত্রও আহবান করা হইতেছে বলিয়া শুনিয়াছি। মদ্যপানের মত জুয়াখেলাও আমাদের কম সর্ব্বনাশ-সাধন করে না। সরকারের লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ করিয়া কলিকাতার বুকের উপর ঘোড়দৌড়ের মারফৎ যে জুয়া-খেলা হয় তাহা বন্ধ অথবা সংযত করিবার কোন চেষ্টাই করা হয় নাই। এই জুয়াখেলার ফলে কত লোক যে পথের ভিখারী হয় তাহা সকলেই জানেন। যে Calcutta Turf Club ১৯১৮ সন হইতে কোন রকম license fee না দিয়া সরকারের অনুমতি লইয়া কয়েক কোটী টাকা মূল্যের সম্পত্তি অর্জ্জন করিয়াছে তাহাদের উপর আজ পর্য্যন্ত কোন license fee ধার্য্য করা হয় নাই। যে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী বিলাতী মদের দর ৭৷৵ হইতে ১৮৲ টাকা করিলেন, যাঁহারা আফিমের দর প্রতি সেরে প্রায় ৪৮৲ টাকা বাড়াইয়াছেন, যাঁহারা গাঁজার দর প্রতি সেরে ৫০৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত বাড়াইয়াছেন, তাঁহারা ঘোড়দৌড়ের জুয়াখেলার টিকিটের দর কিছু বাড়াইয়া এবং Totalisation ও Betting Tax শতকরা ১৫ হইতে ২০ করিয়া জুয়াখেলোয়াড়ের সংখ্যা কমাইবার চেষ্টা করার প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিলেন না কেন তাহা বুঝিতে পারিতেছি না। অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে এই দুইটি বিষয়ে পুনর্বিবেচনা করিতে অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি।

কলিকাতায় সরকারের অনুমোদিত (recognised) একটিমাত্র বে-সরকারী Dental College ডাঃ আর, আহম্মেদ সাহেব আপ্রাণ চেষ্টা করিয়া চালাইতেছেন। এই কলেজের পাশ করা বহু ছাত্র কৃতিত্বের সহিত বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে কাজ করিয়াছে ও করিতেছে। ডাঃ আহমেদ উক্ত কলেজটিকে পশ্চিম বাংলা সরকারের হাতে তুলিয়া দিতেও উদ্গ্রীব। অনেক দন্ত-চিকিৎসাবিদ্ বিনা বেতনে অথবা কম বেতনে শিক্ষকতার কাজ করিতেও প্রস্তুত। কাঁচড়াপাড়া হাসপাতালের গুদামে দন্ত-চিকিৎসার যন্ত্র-পাতি মজুত আছে। প্রস্তাবিত অর্থ বরাদ্দ বজায় রাখিলেই যে বাড়ীতে এখন বিদ্যালয়টি স্থাপিত সেখানেই একটি Government Dental College স্থাপন করা যাইতে পারিত। মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল ঐ প্রস্তাব কেন যে গ্রহণ করিলেন না তাহা বুঝা গেল না। Scheduled Caste অথবা Muslim Education Fund ইত্যাদি নামের পরিবর্ত্তে Funds for the promotion of education amongst educationally backward classes বলিয়া যে নূতন নামাকরণ হইয়াছে উহা প্রশংসার্হ। কিন্তু ব্যক্তিগত অভিজ্ঞতা হইতে বলিতে পারি যে উপযুক্ত ছাত্রও general line ব্যতীত medical অথবা technical line এ শিক্ষালাভ করিতে চাহিলে এই fund হইতে সাহায্য লাভ করিতে পারে না। কেবল কেরাণী সৃষ্টি না করিয়া এই শ্রেণীর ছাত্রদিগকে অন্যান্য বিষয়েও শিক্ষালাভের সুযোগ দেওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয়। তবেই ৬ লক্ষ বা ১০ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ ধরা সার্থক হইবে।

Vagrant Home পরিচালনার জন্য ৫ লক্ষ ১ হাজার টাকা খরচার বরাদ্দ ধরা হইয়াছে। এই সব Home এ প্রায় ১,৬০০ ভিখারী থাকে। উক্ত Vagrant Home কলিকাতায়ই এ বৎসর থাকিবে, না অন্যত্র পাঠান হইবে তাহা সঠিক জানি না। আমার মতে ঐ Home যদি মফঃস্বলে কোথাও স্থানান্তরিত হয়, তবে ভিখারীগুলিকে দিয়া উন্মুক্ত স্থানে কাজও করান যাইতে পারে এবং খরচাও বোধ হয় কলিকাতার তুলনায় কিছু কম হয়। এই ব্যবস্থার ফলে কলিকাতায় বাসোপযোগী গৃহ কতক জন সাধারণেও পাইতে পারে, আর রেশনের উপরে যে চাপ পড়িতেছে তাহাও কথঞ্চিৎ হ্রাস পায়। অধিকন্তু ঐ সকল ভিখারীদের মধ্যে কুষ্ঠরোগীও আছে। উহাদিগকে নিয়া শিয়ারডোবা কুষ্ঠাশ্রমটির কাজ সুরু হইতে পারে। ইতিপূর্ব্বে এই কুষ্ঠাশ্রমটির জন্য মুসলীম লীগ সরকার ১০ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করিলেও কাজ কিছুই হয় নাই। গত জানুয়ারী মাসে আমি উহা পরিদর্শন করিয়া আমার রিপোর্টও সরকারকে দিয়াছি। যে সকল বাড়ী-ঘর এখনো ওখানে টিকিয়া আছে তাহা সামান্য মেরামৎ করিয়া নিলেই বর্ত্তমানে কাজ চলিতে পারে। Vagrancy Act এ অবশ্য কলিকাতায় Vagrant Home করার কথাই উল্লিখিত আছে। এই Home স্থানান্তরের ব্যাপারে গভর্ণমেন্ট কেবলমাত্র গেজেটে notification দিয়াই সংশোধন করিয়া নিতে পারেন বলিয়া আমি মনে করি।

গ্রামে গ্রামে টিউবওয়েল বসাইয়া পানীয় জলের ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য ও পুরাতন টিউবওয়েল মেরামতের জন্য সরকার প্রায় ৩৫ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ ধরিয়াছেন। অভিজ্ঞ ব্যক্তিরা বলেন—প্রতি ৪০০ জনে একটি টিউবওয়েল দরকার। সে হিসাবে সহরাঞ্চল বাদে শুধু গ্রামাঞ্চলের জন্য প্রায় ৪০ হাজার টিউবওয়েল বসাইবার প্রয়োজন। অবশ্য পুরাতন টিউবওয়েলও কিছু আছে। ৩৫ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়ে এ বৎসরের নূতন ১,৫০০ টিউবওয়েল বসিবে এবং পুরাতনগুলি মেরামৎ হইবে। এই গতিতে যদি টিউবওয়েল বসিতে থাকে' তবে উহা দীর্ঘদিনসাপেক্ষ। আমরা এই ব্যাপারটি সরকারকে আরও ত্বরান্বিত করিবার অনুরোধই করিতেছি।

গ্রাম্য স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্র সংগঠনের জন্য মোট ১ কোটী ৫ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ ধরা হইয়াছে। প্রতি ইউনিয়নে ইউনিয়নে একটি স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্র ও প্রতি থানায় একটি হিসাবে থানা হাঁসপাতাল স্থাপনের জন্য প্রাথমিক ব্যয় কয়েক কোটী টাকা ছাড়াও বাৎসরিক খরচা নির্বাহের জন্যও সরকারকে যথেষ্ট অর্থ ব্যয় করিতে হইবে। আমাদের দেশীয় চিকিৎসাপ্রণালী বিদেশীয় চিকিৎসার প্রভাবে মৃতপ্রায়। আয়ুর্বেদীয় ঔষধের কেন্দ্রও যদি ঐ ইউনিয়ন স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্রের পরিকল্পনার অঙ্গীভূত হইত, তবে এক দিকে যেমন খরচাও কিছু কম হইত তেমনি দেশীয় গাছগাছড়ার ঔষধের সঙ্গে জনসাধারণ আবার পরিচিত হইয়া উঠিত এবং সামান্য রোগে নিজেরাই বিনা পয়সায় ঔষধ পাইবার ব্যবস্থা করিতে পারিত। এতদ্ভিন্ন সস্তা ঔষধ হিসাবে হোমিওপ্যাথি ঔষধকেও পরীক্ষামূলকভাবে কয়েকটি কেন্দ্রে প্রয়োগ করিলে খরচা অনেক কম হইত। জনসাধারণও এই সব কাজে অর্থসাহায্য করিতে অগ্রসর হইয়া আসিয়াছিলেন; এ পর্যন্ত তাঁহারা চাঁদা হিসাবে অনেক টাকা প্রদানও করিয়াছেন। সরকার এইরূপ চাঁদা অতঃপর আর গ্রহণ করিবেন কি না বাজেট দেখিয়া তাহা সঠিক বুঝা যাইতেছে না।

কৃষি একটি অত্যন্ত প্রয়োজনীয় বিভাগ। যে কোন কারণেই হউক এ পর্য্যন্ত এই বিভাগের কাজ জনসাধারণের মনে আগ্রহ এবং উৎসাহের সঞ্চার করিতে পারে নাই। মনে হয় সুষ্ঠু অর্থনৈতিক ভিত্তির উপর সকল কর্ম্মপন্থা প্রতিষ্ঠিত নয় বলিয়াই এই ফল হইয়াছে। Research experimentation এবং propagandaর নামে অনেক অক্ষমতা যেন চাপা দেওয়া হয়। Research experiment, propaganda প্রভৃতির জন্য যত খরচ হয় তাহা পৃথক করিয়া দেখান উচিত। কৃষিক্ষেত্রগুলি স্বাবলম্বী না হইলে জনসাধারণের উপর প্রভাব বিস্তার করিতে পারে না। Seed Storeএর মারফতে বীজ, সার, লোহার জিনিস ইত্যাদি বিক্রী করিয়া যে কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা লোকসান হয় তাহা নিবারণ করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন। বিহার প্রদেশে Credit Agricol প্রতিষ্ঠা করার ফলে শুধু যে এই লোকসান বন্ধ হইয়াছে তাহা নহে, বরং কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা লাভ হইতেছে। Credit Agricol সম্বন্ধে যে সব বিবরণ আছে তাহা পরীক্ষা করিয়া ব্যবসায়িক দৃষ্টিতে এই কাজ পরিচালিত হইলে লোকসান অনেক পরিমাণে কমিতে পারে। কৃষি বিভাগে প্রচার প্রচারণার জন্য প্রায় ১ কোটী ৭৫ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ ধরা হইয়াছে। এত বিপুল অর্থব্যয়ে যে ফললাভ হইতেছে তাহা দেশের কৃষি-ব্যবস্থার কোন উন্নতি করতে পারে নাই এবং ভবিষ্যতেও পারিবে না যদি না কর্ম্মপন্থা পরিবর্ত্তিত হয়।

Famine Relief খাতে ৭ লক্ষ ২৮ হাজার টাকার বিলাতী গুঁড়া দুধ সরবরাহের একটি বরাদ্দ আছে। যে টাকা বরাদ্দ আছে তার উপরে আর কয়েক লাখ টাকা মূলধন হিসাবে ধার দিলে সরকার গ্রামের লোককে দুগ্ধবতী গাভী সরবরাহ করিতে পারেন। নিয়মের একটু পরিবর্ত্তন করিয়া cattle purchase loanএর মত cow purchase loanএর ব্যবস্থা করা যায়। ঐ গাভীর মূল্য গ্রামবাসী কিস্তিতে পরিশোধ করিবে। ইহার ফলে গুঁড়া দুধ ক্রয় করিবার জন্য যে ৭।৮ লাখ টাকা বিদেশে চলিয়া যাইতেছে তাহা বন্ধ হইবে। ছোটভাবে এই কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতা নিয়া ব্যাপকভাবে এই পরিকল্পনায় সমগ্র দেশের দুগ্ধ উৎপাদন ও গো-সম্পদ বৃদ্ধি করা যাইতে পারিত। অতীতেও এ বিষয়ে যথেষ্ট আলোচনা হইয়াছে। উহা কাজে পরিণত করিবার চেষ্টা করিলে সব দিক দিয়াই ভাল হইত।

স্বায়ত্তশাসন বিভাগের আর্থিক দুর্গতি চরম পর্য্যায়ে পৌঁছিয়াছে। ইউনিয়ন বোর্ড হইতে কলিকাতা কর্পোরেশন পর্য্যন্ত সর্ব্বত্রই অর্থাভাবের জন্য মেথর ঝাড়ুদারের বেতন দেওয়া হয় না, রাস্তাঘাট মেরামত হয় না, জঞ্জাল-আবর্জ্জনা পরিস্কার হয় না—সর্ব্বত্রই একটা বিশৃঙ্খলা চলিতেছে। এ অবস্থা হইতে রেহাই পাওয়ার জন্য মাদ্রাজ গভর্ণমেন্ট যেমন কতকগুলি রাজস্ব স্থানীয় স্বায়ত্তশাসন বিভাগের

হাতেই ছাড়িয়া দিয়াছেন তদনুরূপ কোন ব্যবস্থা আমাদের এখানেও অবলম্বন করা দরকার। যদি উহা করা সম্ভব না হয় ত তাহাদের আর্থিক অবস্থার উন্নতিবিধানের পথ নির্দেশ করিয়া দিতে হয় বিশেষতঃ রাস্তা মেরামতের জন্য সরকারী সাহায্যের পরিমাণ ২০ লক্ষ হইতে কমাইয়া যখন আগামী বৎসর ১০ লক্ষ করা হইয়াছে। কোনক্রমেই এরূপ বিশৃঙ্খল অবস্থা আর বেশী দিন চলিতে দেওয়া যাইতে পারে না।

অসামরিক সরবরাহ বিভাগ সম্পর্কে অনেক কথাই বলিবার ছিল, কিন্তু আনন্দের বিষয় যে, ভারত সরকার আমাদের মত গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন এবং চা'ল ও আটা ব্যতীত কাপড়, চিনি প্রভৃতি সবই decontrol করিয়াছেন। চাল ও গমের উপর কন্ট্রোল কতদিন চলিবে জানি না। এই বিভাগ সম্বন্ধে অনেকেরই অনেক কিছু বক্তব্য আছে। এই ধরণের একচেটিয়া কারবার করিয়া ব্যবসায়ীরা যেখানে প্রচুর লাভ করে, সেই কাজে সরকার প্রচুর পরিমাণে লোকসান দিয়া থাকেন। কেবল বণ্টন-ব্যবস্থায়ই যদি সরকারী নিয়ন্ত্রণ এই পরিণতি নিয়া থাকে, তাহা হইলে আমরা উৎপাদন বণ্টন-ব্যবস্থা জাতীয়করণের কথা বলিব কোন মুখে? অন্যান্য বিষয়ের মধ্যে প্রধান দুই-একটি বিষয়ে অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিব। বিষয়গুলি এই: (১) ধান ভাঙ্গার দর; (২) ধান হইতে উৎপন্ন চাউলের পরিমাণ নির্দ্ধারণ। বোম্বাইয়ে ধান কলের মালিকেরা যে দরে ধান হইতে চাউল উৎপাদন করেন তাহা যদি গ্রহণযোগ্য নাও হয়, তবু এখানে যে হারে মজুরী দেওয়া হয় ইহা হইতে জনপ্রতি অন্ততঃ চারি আনা কমাইলে, কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা লোকসান বাঁচান যাইতে পারে। ইহা ছাড়া ১½ মণে ১৷৷৹ চাউল উৎপন্ন হওয়ার যে সাধারণ প্রথা তাহার ব্যতিক্রম করিয়া ৮৮ অথবা ৮৯ সের চাউল গ্রহণ না করিলে এই বিভাগের লোকসান বহুলাংশে কম হইতে পারে। প্রয়োজন হইলে দৃঢ় হস্তে ইহা কাজে পরিণত করা উচিত।

আমি আমার বক্তব্য আর বেশী দীর্ঘ করিতে চাই না। মোট কথা, উন্নয়নের জন্য যে সাড়ে ছয় কোটী টাকা ব্যয়ের পরিকল্পনা করা হইয়াছে তাহা যাহাতে যথাযথভাবে সম্পূর্ণ ব্যয় হয় তৎপ্রতি প্রথম হইতেই বিশেষ সতর্ক দৃষ্টি রাখা প্রয়োজন। অন্যথায় দেখা যাইবে যে বৎসরান্তে বরাদ্দের বহু টাকাই পড়িয়া রহিয়াছে—খরচ হয় নাই। আবার উপযুক্ত ক্ষেত্রে ও লোকের হাত দিয়া এই অর্থ ব্যয় না হইলে, টাকা খরচ হইয়া গেলেও দেখা যাইবে যে কাজ হয় নাই। পরিকল্পনা ছোট বড় বহু আমাদের দেশে হইয়াছে—বিজ্ঞ মস্তিষ্কের বহু গবেষণালব্ধ পরিকল্পনাও কাজে লাগাইবার অভাবে নষ্ট হইয়া গিয়াছে। কাজেই পরিকল্পনা ও বিশেষজ্ঞ ব্যবস্থার উপর জনসাধারণের মন খুবই বিরূপ হইয়া থাকে। জনস্বাস্থ্য ও চিকিৎসা বিভাগে পল্লী অঞ্চলে পানীয় জল সরবরাহ ও ডাক্তারখানা স্থাপন ইত্যাদি ব্যাপারে আবার প্ল্যানিংএর চাপ পড়িবে কি না সঠিক বুঝিতেছি না, কেন না উক্ত দুই বিভাগে এক লক্ষ টাকা হিসাবে দুই লক্ষ টাকা প্ল্যানিং বাবদ বরাদ্দ ধরা আছে। কাজেই আমার ভয় হয়, স্বাস্থ্যকেন্দ্র গঠন ও টিউবওয়েল বসাইবার শিশু পরিকল্পনা ২টি বা অতীতের মত বিজ্ঞ পরিকল্পনার চাপে আঁতুড়েই মারা না যায়। কাজেই আমার বিনীত নিবেদন এই যে, পরিকল্পনার কুতকে খুব বেশী বাড়িতে না দিয়া কাজ যথাযথ করাইয়া নিবার ব্যবস্থায় মনোনিবেশ করিলেই জনসাধারণ বেশী উপকৃত হইবে। পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী কাজ করিতে গেলে সরকারকে জনসাধারণের সহিত মিশিতে হইবে। তাহাদের সহযোগিতায় ও সাহায্যেই তাহাকে কাজ করিতে হইবে—আর সে সাহায্য ও সহযোগিতা পাইতে হইলে দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীর ও অফিসীয় কেতাদুরস্তিরও বহুলাংশে পরিবর্তন করিতে হইবে। আমি আশা করি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় সেদিক দিয়া সকলতা লাভ করিবেন।

Sri JYOTI BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, unfortunately I thought that I would speak tomorrow and so I am not very well prepared, but I hear tomorrow is a holiday and as I shall not be here on Monday, I shall try to make my speech today on the Budget.

I feel that any estimate of the Budget must of necessity relate to the needs of the people and the material conditions which exist in our country. It is needless to point out that the condition of our people has continued to deteriorate even after the end of the war in spite of the existence of the Congress and the League Governments. The cost of living has steadily gone up until today in Bengal it stands at about 340 as compared to the 1939 figure. Blackmarkets' rule and profiteers' heaven have been established in our fair land. In the countryside the *kisan* has become poorer and the army of landless labourers has increased in volume. During the

last one year the rice-producing *kisans* had to buy rice and manufactured articles at blackmarket prices and consequently they have had to sell out the little plots of land or the little property that they possessed. The prices of bullocks, iron and steel and plough having immensely risen the peasant became pauper and the village industries ceased to exist in many villages. The workers' wages and salaries of middle class employees were depreciated to the extent of 40 to 50 per cent. of the former income, even making full allowance for higher dearness allowance and, in some cases, increment in wages. The ration supplied to him is insufficient for himself as well as for his family. Cloth has also been scarce for him for the last one year. Want and privation have become common phenomenon amongst 98 per cent. of the families of workers and middle class people as Imperialism refused to allow the real industrial development of our country by the denial of building her basic industries. No sooner was the war over than lakhs of people faced unemployment or have already been retrenched from the Army or the Government Ordnance Factories, Government service, Civil Supplies, Military Accounts, etc. I wish to clearly impress upon the Ministers that whilst the people thus groaned under the Imperialist economy, the rich capitalist section prospered through war contracts and orders and amassed huge wealth. The zemindars and the jotedars in the villages increase their power to exploit through acquiring the property of the peasant. Added to all these is the division of Bengal which has seriously affected our economy, as pointed out by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. If West Bengal were to be pulled out of the mire, if her people were to be saved and the foundations of a happy and prosperous land laid, then swift, urgent and even drastic measures are necessary. The dirt, the filth and the diabolical crimes of the British Imperialism perpetrated through scores of years cannot be wiped out in a day, I know. Neither can it be done through slow reforms and following the path laid down for us by our Imperialist masters. We have to make up for the loss of 100 years. We have to catch up with the advanced capitalist countries within the shortest possible time. We are, therefore, in a hurry and a bit impatient. I also know that by the waving of a magic wand, as it were, prosperity and plenty of our land cannot be built up in a very short time or in a day. But the budget which has been placed before us must clearly give us the perspective of a revolutionary change. It must lay before us strikingly new departures which will proclaim convincingly to the people a break from the inglorious past. Judging from this aspect I shall show that this Budget is as stereotyped as any other Budget which the Hon'ble the Finance Minister prepared under different British Governments.

The revenue estimate for 1948-49 in this so-called first Budget of free Bengal shows that the ordinary revenue of Rs. 24½ crores is made out amongst other things of 6 crores under Taxes—that is one-fourth of the total 5 crores under Sales Tax and 40 lakhs under the Agricultural Income-Tax. These figures speak eloquently. A province which has to sell opium, wine, etc., for raising funds and tax the common people through Sales Tax has a bleak future. The Congress members, I remember, raised a hue and cry over this particular Sales Tax at the time it was introduced, but today shamelessly the Congress Ministers are again advocating that revenues of this land shall be raised through the Sales Tax. True to its character, however, this Government has shown commendable concern for their own friends—the zemindars—and, therefore, only 40 lakhs has been raised from them as Agricultural Income-Tax. No innovation has been made to tax the rich, to introduce death duties, for instance, as exist in other capitalist European countries, to lay the basis of nationalisation of iron and steel, coal, textiles, tea and other industries and the abolition of the zemindary system which will—I am sure the Ministers will understand—fetch revenues for the State. The Centre, too, having got rid of the Excess Profits Tax shamelessly ask for a greater share of the Income-Tax than would be justified by partition of Bengal. The Congress Governments

have followed the path of our Imperialist capitalist masters in the matter of collecting revenues and not the people's methods. Therefore, I was surprised to find mention being made in the Budget speech by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that he was attempting to lay the foundation of an economy which would in the shortest possible time ensure in our province that the difference between man and man does not exist.

Now, turning to expenditure, we see a similar depressing picture and the accentuation of the difference between man and man. All-clear signals have been given to the rich to grow richer and the poor to grow poorer. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has given us a general clear picture of the divided province of Bengal. But the first thing that strikes one is that although West Bengal is about one-third of the original Bengal yet administrative expenses continue to be the same as ever, at the top specially. The officers continue to draw—I do not know why—the same salaries as before and their travelling and other allowances continue to be as handsome as ever before. The votaries of plain living and high thinking, the habitual wearers of *khadi*—I do not mean of course the Hon'ble Finance Minister but the others and the gentlemen sitting opposite who have been used to third class travelling only yesterday—are behaving, to say the least, atrociously as soon as they have come to power, and yet they pretend that this is a people's Budget and the difference between man and man shall be abolished.

Expenditure on Police, I find of course, covers as large a percentage of the whole Budget as before, and is about the same as was spent in undivided Bengal. Of course this must be done logically from the path that has been traversed by the Government both in the past and is seeking to traverse through this particular Budget, because if the Ministers have not laid the basis whereby some good will be done to the people, whereby the wages of workers will be raised or whereby unemployment shall be prevented, then the police force has got to be increased and they have to be sent out to the villages and the towns in order to bring about or preserve, as they would say, safety and stability of the State from the workers and the *kisans* when they ask for more wages, more rice, more food, more cloth. And the workers have to be compelled by more expenditure on account of police to be slaves of the capitalist class, so that they may not protest that they are not being given sufficient food to eat. Therefore I say that this expenditure on Police Budget is logical.

I also find a very interesting expenditure introduced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister along the lines of Mr. Suhrawardy in the past. That is an expenditure for trade union activities on the right lines and such other things. About Rs. 3 lakhs and 33 thousand are going to be spent on that account. I know that this used to be done by Mr. Suhrawardy when he wanted to build up Government controlled and Government dominated trade unions in order to break other trade unions of the workers. Today in the I.N.T.U.C. of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee the present Government have got their own organisation and men to do the same thing, and that is why perhaps this money—the money which the workers probably will not give to the I.N.T.U.C.—is being provided for them by the present Ministry. This of course is in the tradition of fascist trade unions in Germany and in Italy in the past. Dr. Goebbels and Dr. Ley were there in Germany and there are doctors in our country who are going to do the same job for the capitalist class and the money has been provided on that account.

If we turn to Irrigation and Agriculture, we find the Hon'ble Finance Minister has taken some pains to show us that a little more money will be spent on Agriculture in proportion to what was spent during the last Budget. That is quite true. A few lakhs extra are being spent on Agriculture and Irrigation, but that does not make any qualitative change. A few lakhs extra are to be spent to meet the needs of the people and if we

consider the needs of the people, we shall find that this is but a drop in the ocean, and the Hon'ble Minister also probably realises it. The chief necessity today as has been recognised by the Congress, by everybody in fact in the country, is the abolition of the zemindari system—the very system which corrupts people, the very system which confines people to poverty, illiteracy and degradation generally—but we find that there is no such attempt worth the name which is being made for the abolition of the zemindari system, probably because the gentlemen sitting opposite have started representing this very class. It has even been recognised by capitalist economists, spokesmen of capitalist classes, that the zemindari system should go and some other form of relationship should be established between the *kisans* and the Government. Even then we find in the first Budget of free Bengal that no such provision, honest, straightforward provision, has been made to that effect. You may spend one, two, three, four, five or ten lakhs or more on agriculture for supplying seeds, manures, iron, steel, etc., to the *kisans*, but that will go down the drain into undesirable hands and nothing will remain and no result will be seen within one year or two years.

Similarly with regard to Industries, it has been very kindly impressed upon the country and specially the capitalist class that a large section of industry will continue to be left to private enterprise. In the true tradition and role which the present Government have taken, they have said this. I do not blame the Hon'ble Finance Minister although he himself is a capitalist. I shall not blame the Finance Minister because I know that this is being followed by the other Congress Ministers as well. People who have been in the Congress, who have fought—I do not know whether they fought for high ideals but who have preached high ideals in the past—are enunciating this policy and probably that is why they have brought inside their Governments the Hon'ble Sir Sanmukhan Chetty, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy and Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker. They have said very plainly, Sardar Patel, for instance, told the capitalist class "why are you afraid?"——

(An honourable member from the Muslim League benches crossed the Chair.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. It is my painful duty to warn the honourable member not to cross the line between the Chair and the speaker. (A VOICE: I am sorry.)

Sri JYOTI BASU: Sir, I shall not blame those gentlemen who have prepared the Budget. They have done so on the guidance of Sardar Patel and his friends and they have told the capitalist class plainly "Why are you afraid? You have your representatives within the Congress Government". Therefore, I need not further dilate on Industries. We know what kind of economy we shall get in our country when there is a crisis of Capitalism all the world over. Even in that land of the new masters of some of the gentlemen sitting there, i.e., America, there seems to be some sort of crisis brewing and therefore today to leave industries in the hands of private enterprise will not help our land and within a very short time we shall see a tremendous economic crisis besetting our dear land. Then of course the workers shall be blamed that they are not producing and the *kisans* will also be blamed that they are not producing and that the fault shall be theirs.

We find that Government have provided Rs. 20 lakhs for *bustee* improvement, and that will mean probably Rs. 2 per head in place of Re. 1-8 per head which was sanctioned by the then Suhrawardy Government, because there was then over a million of *bustee* dwellers in Calcutta but their numbers have grown by now as people have come from East Bengal and other places.

Then, Sir, Rs. 50 lakhs has been granted for middle class families. It is a very paltry sum and I do not know how it will be spent, but by this amount not more than 300, 400 or 500 families can be accommodated.

Then there is not a word in this Budget speech about requisitioning cement, steel, iron, bricks and other materials which are required for building purposes. We know that even private persons would be ready to build houses if they are supplied with materials at controlled rates. We know this was denied to us during the war, neither did Government undertake to build houses, and it was denied to private individuals as well. But today there should not be any such question. Yet how can the present Government, the Ministers, displease their Capitalist friends, those people who have cement factories, who have iron and steel factories, and so on? Therefore there is not a word about that. We are told that a few lakhs are going to be spent for solving the great housing problem of West Bengal.

There are one and half pages devoted to increase in pay in the Budget speech. As far as I remember and I know, Dr. Ghosh, the last Premier of our province, promised that the Pay Commission's scales would be paid to the Government employees, and on a calculation we find that that probably would have cost us 3 crores of rupees or a little more, but one crore has been sanctioned by the present Ministry. I also hear that even though provision for greater expenditure was incorporated in the first draft of the Budget when it was prepared, the present Hon'ble Finance Minister crossed that out and made this grant. I do not know why, because everybody knows today about the condition of middle class employees who work in offices. There is not a home in the whole of Bengal where there is no suffering—not one. There is not a home where we do not see the tears of our mothers and sisters. This is not unknown to the Congress Ministers, but still even this paltry increase in their wages has been denied to them; that which has been won after tremendous battles by the Central Government employees has been denied to the Bengal Government employees. On the other hand, adding insult to injury, we find that they are being told that the Government of a country is not a profit-making institution. A lecture is being delivered to them as to how under the free condition they must learn to do service to the people. I think that had better be delivered first in Writers' Buildings and that at the top before we come down to preach lecture on services to the State, to people who get 30, 40 or 60 rupees. I think the Ministers, who besides their pay as Ministers earn hundreds and thousands of rupees through business, contract, etc.- the first thing they should do is to deny themselves of the pay they get from the Government, and start self-denial from the top, before they come to the bottom.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: They have given it up when they joined the Government.

Sri JYOTI BASU: Of course the Hon'ble the Finance Minister tells us that he has given it up.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Everybody has given up.

Sri JYOTI BASU: I do not know of everybody. But if he has given up or Dr. B. C. Roy has given up their huge business concerns and for service to the motherland joined the present Cabinet, it would be a very good example if it were true. I know that even today—and that cannot be denied by those Hon'ble gentlemen—they are connected with the biggest concerns in Bengal either as Directors, or God knows, what, because I am unable to make out as to how they are earning their profit. Sometimes I do not find their names in the prospectus, books and so on, and yet businessmen have their own way of earning money through these concerns. We know, for instance, who are the gentlemen amongst Ministers who are connected with this Exhibition—this huge show. We know what profit they are going to make through this concern. But my point is not particularly directed at them, because to my utter shame and surprise, after the Congress has come into power, I see some people—ordinary people—rushing in and out of the

Ministers' rooms to get contracts and the like. I have seen that myself. I know that such things are happening. Therefore let us reserve our lectures for our ownselves before we deliver them to the poor clerks who have been denied the Pay Commission's scales.

Sir, I do not find anything in the Budget about the unemployment problem. The other day I visited the Civil Supplies Department and some clerks came to me and asked me whether I would raise their question in this Assembly. Now, there was no need for them to ask me to do so, because everybody knows that hundreds and thousands of these men like the Military Accounts people are going to be retrenched within a short time. There is no scheme of the Government for paying unemployment doles as in England and other countries: there is no scheme that they shall be taken in in other jobs and other industries which are going to be built in our country. I know they will be told, "for your motherland and for service to your country keep quiet even though you are retrenched". They shall be told that for three years they must not go on strike; they will be sabotaging the free Government of India if they go on strike. "But if you are unemployed, then with your wives and children and parents go out into the streets or do what you like, but Government shall not take care of you". That is the sort of civilised government which exists in our country.

Sir, I find that not sufficient provision has been made, as was used to be made under the Suhrawardy Government, for procurement of food, of rice and other things to be supplied to our people at low prices or even free because that may be necessary, for otherwise starvation will be the order of the day with many hundreds and thousands of families in the towns and the countryside. Generally speaking, I cannot—I have tried to read this Budget speech and the Red Book—understand. I did not have a picture, an integrated picture, of plans which are going to emerge out of the provisions of the Budget which has been placed before us, because I suppose the details have not been worked out; they will be done by the different departments of the Government as the Hon'ble Finance Minister told us. Therefore we shall wait and watch and see what happens within the course of one year even with regard to the plans which have been made in this Budget, even with regard to the grants which have been made under the different heads of Agriculture, Education, Irrigation, Housing and so on—whether the whole sums are spent. We shall see on what they are spent, whether on middlemen or whether the money goes to the benefit of the poverty-stricken people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall not take much more time but I shall say that an illusion has been created in the minds of the people that we are at least free and that the last Britisher has left our shores. Therefore, naturally there are high expectations among the people and the people after the 15th of August were looking forward to peace and plenty in our land, they were looking forward to the foundation of a new civilisation in our country, but they are being disappointed week after week, month after month. I know that the Government has control over the so-called nationalist papers and therefore in many of them we find that it has been trumpeted that this is a people's Budget, but how nobody has told us. It is being told over the radio, through the newspapers and in this Assembly that this is a people's Budget, that in the Budget foundations have been laid whereby we shall not see any longer the difference between man and man, but we do not know the details as to how this is going to happen. On the contrary I find from my reading of the Budget that this is in the tradition of our British Imperialist masters. The Budgets that have been prepared for them by the Hon'ble Finance Minister were of the same nature as is being given to us now when he is also a Congress Finance Minister. I would suggest that the way to move forward is not through these means. It cannot be done, neither can you raise revenues by these means which the British taught us, nor can you spend money and benefit the people in the usual ways of the British Capitalist masters.

I remember on the first day the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. B. C. Roy, told us that we must not confine our attention to our own country but look around—he had just come back from a European and American tour. Therefore I shall also look around but not at America. I find that in the Eastern European countries where new democracies are arising, they are behaving in quite a different fashion. Those are peoples' Republics. Therefore they do not raise bogeys of difficulties. What they have done is to take land from the rich zemindars and jotedars and distribute the land to the peasants. They have discussed their plans with the common people of those countries in Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Poland, etc., and through discussions with them they have roused enthusiasm and therefore they have found youths building railways free. They do not take wages because they feel that railways are theirs and therefore for their country they must work. The factories—the main, chief factories and industries—are being taken off from the hands of the Capitalists. There are no Birlas, Ispahanis, Tatas in those lands. They are finished for good and therefore the factories are the property of the people, of the workers, peasants and other sections of society and therefore when the people see that this is happening in front of their eyes they really feel that a new civilisation is growing in their land, that is why they work for their land free; if necessary they give their lives for their motherland because they feel that is their motherland. Unfortunately, instead of taking lessons from those countries, our Governments look to America and our masters, the British. That is why we are in this sorry mess today.

I feel that this is a political matter; it is not merely the fault of the Bengal Government but it is the fault of the Congress Government as a whole, because they have taken the path of reaction, the path of kotowing to the capitalist and zemindar classes. They are behaving as their representatives and that is why they got rid of the Excess Profits Tax, and that is why they have started a new venture, some sort of Finance Corporation. I wonder whether those are going to be along the lines of the Fascist corporations which were built in Italy. I am afraid that it may be somewhat on those lines.

However, Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I sit down I would urge upon the Ministers—I shall not separate the representatives of the capitalists themselves who are in the Ministry from the others who are habitual wearers of *khadi*, as they say—I shall not differentiate between them because there is no difference, because today they are following the same path—I urge upon them if they are at all serious about doing any good to the people, then tear asunder the Budget which has been placed before us. It is the height of affrontery to tell us today that this is a people's Budget. The people are nowhere in the picture except that they have to pay—that is the only place where the people come in. Therefore the first people who congratulated the Ministry on their presenting this Budget in free Bengal were the Capitalist sections, were the industrial organs, when they said that this is a great Budget which has come before us. Whatever the so-called nationalist papers may say—and I believe some of their editorials are being inspired from other places—whatever that be, the people will not be hoodwinked and cannot be hoodwinked today. The people shall understand day after day through their privations and suffering that this is not their Budget. They shall understand that the present-day Government is following in the footsteps of the old Imperialist masters, and as such, the people shall very soon come on their own and ask the present gentlemen to relinquish their position. If they cannot rule in the people's way, let them quit and let others present their Budget who can rule in the people's way as people's representatives.

Sri BASANTLAL MURARKA: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, পশ্চিম বঙ্গের বাৎসরিক বাজেট সম্বন্ধে আমি আজ আমাদের প্রাদেশিক ভাষায় বলিবার প্রয়াস করিতেছি। এই ভাষার উপর আমার বিশেষ আয়ত্ত না থাকায় ত্রুটি অবশ্যম্ভাবী; তজ্জন্য আশা করি আমাকে মার্জনা করিবেন।

আমার বক্তব্য বলিবার পূর্ব্বে মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয়কে যুক্তিপূর্ণ বাজেট পেশ করায়, আমি আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করিতেছি।

মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয় যে তাঁহার বাজেটে নির্য্যাতিত দেশসেবকগণকে স্মরণ করিয়াছেন এবং আমাদের দুঃখ-দুর্দ্দশা নিবারণকল্পে সরকার যে যত্নবান হইয়াছেন তাহা অতীব আনন্দদায়ক।

কুটীর শিল্পের উন্নতিকল্পে সরকার পক্ষ হইতে যতটা করা উচিত ছিল ততটা করা হয় নাই। বাংলা বিভাগের পর আমাদের প্রদেশকে আবার নূতন জীবন দান ও শক্তিশালী করিতে হইলে কুটীর শিল্পের বহুল প্রচার ও বৃদ্ধি আবশ্যক। আমি প্রায়ই শুনিতে পাই, আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণ বলিয়া থাকেন যে শিল্প জাতীয়করণের জন্য ব্যয় করিলে দেশের উন্নতি হইবে। ভারত সরকারের প্রধান মন্ত্রী মাননীয় জওহরলাল নেহেরু মহাশয় স্পষ্টই বলিয়াছেন যে দেশের উৎপাদন শক্তি বাড়াইতে হইবে; কিন্তু আমাদের বাজেটে উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধিকল্পে সবিশেষ চেষ্টা দেখিতে না পাইয়া অতিশয় দুঃখিত ও হতাশ হইলাম। ইহা বিবেচনা করিতে হইবে যে আমাদের এই প্রদেশের ভবিষ্যৎ আশা ও ভরসা, কৃষি ও শিল্পজাত দ্রব্য উৎপাদনের উপর সম্পূর্ণ নির্ভর করে।

পশ্চিম বঙ্গের পূর্ব্ব সীমান্তে প্রায়ই গোলযোগের সংবাদ পাওয়া যাইতেছে। সুতরাং পূর্ব্ব সীমান্তকে দৃঢ় ও নিরাপদ করার জন্য সরকারের শীঘ্রই উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা প্রয়োজন। ম্যালেরিয়া নিবারণ কল্পে যে ব্যয় বরাদ্দ হইয়াছে তাহা প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় অল্প। যে দেশে প্রতি বৎসর হাজার হাজার মূল্যবান জীবন এই ব্যাধিতে অকালে ধ্বংস হইতেছে ও জনবহুল গ্রাম সকল জনশূন্য হইতেছে, সরকারের এই অল্প বরাদ্দ তাহা রোধ করিতে অক্ষম। জাতি ধ্বংসমুখে আর যাহাতে অগ্রসর হইতে না পারে তজ্জন্য যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ অর্থ ব্যয় করিয়া ম্যালেরিয়া নির্ম্মূল করার চেষ্টা করা উচিত।

ভারতবর্ষ হইতে ইংরাজগণ চলিয়া যাইতেছে এবং ইহার সঙ্গে ইংরাজী ভাষার ব্যবহারও হ্রাস পাইতেছে এই শুভক্ষণে রাষ্ট্র ভাষার প্রচলন একান্ত বাঞ্ছনীয়। আশা করি সরকার এ বিষয়ে অবহিত হইবেন। ইহার ফলে এক প্রদেশের সহিত অন্য প্রদেশের এবং কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের কার্য্যপরিচালনা ও ভাব বিনিময়ের বিশেষ সুবিধা হইবে।

আমি একটি বিষয়ের প্রতি সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। কলিকাতায় ভিখারীর সমস্যা অতি নিদারুণ হইয়াছে। সরকার পক্ষ হইতে তাহাদের কর্ম্মোপযোগী করাইয়া কোন না কোন কার্য্যে ব্যাপৃত রাখা একান্ত প্রয়োজন, নচেৎ এই সমস্যার সমাধান হইতে পারে না। সরকারের Kanchrapara উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা প্রশংসনীয়। ইহার দ্বারা বহু মধ্যবিত্ত পরিবারের বসবাসের সুবিধা হইবে। কিন্তু এ বিষয়ে আমার কিছু বক্তব্য আছে। ঐ এলাকায় কলিকাতা পিঞ্জরাপোলের বহুল পরিমাণ জমি সরকারের অধিকারে রহিয়াছে। তজ্জন্য এই প্রতিষ্ঠানের গো-জাতির উন্নতিকল্পে নানারূপ পরিকল্পনা কার্য্যে পরিণত করা সম্ভবপর হইয়া উঠিতেছে না। সরকারের নিকট আমার একান্ত নিবেদন যে তাঁহারা যেন এই প্রতিষ্ঠানের জমি ছাড়িয়া দিয়া আমাদের দেশের সম্পদ গো-মাতৃগণকে ধ্বংস হইতে রক্ষা করেন।

প্রদেশের খাদ্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধির বিশেষ প্রয়োজন। সেইহেতু সরকার পক্ষ হইতে কলের লাঙ্গল ক্রয় করিয়া বড় বড় কৃষিজীবীদের মধ্যে বণ্টন করিয়া দেওয়া ও সমবায় প্রতিষ্ঠান স্থাপন পূর্ব্বক বিস্তীর্ণ ভূমিতে কৃষিকার্য্য চালাইবার ব্যবস্থা করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন।

পরিশেষে, সরকার সাধারণের গমনাগমনের সুবিধার্থে বাসের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধির যে পরিকল্পনা করিয়াছেন তাহা প্রশংসনীয়, এবং অচিরে যাহাতে উক্ত পরিকল্পনা কার্য্যে পরিণত হয় তজ্জন্য সরকারের দৃষ্টি বিশেষভাবে আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। জয় হিন্দ।

Sri SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before proceeding with my discussion I shall extend my felicitations to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for his Budget statement, remarkable for clarity and precision. In the Budget statement there is no beating about the bush, no empty rodomontade, but it is a clear, straightforward Budget statement.

One remarkable feature of the Budget is that there is no proposal for fresh taxation to cover the small deficit of one crore of rupees on revenue account. As was said by Burke, "it is not possible for anyone to tax and to please no more than it is to love and be wise". I think the Hon'ble the Finance

Minister appreciates the observations of Edmund Burke. The tax-payer overburdened with the weight of taxes direct and indirect will heave a sigh of relief over this. It is no use in these days of public distress to attempt to tap fresh sources of revenue. On the contrary I suggest that the Centre should be approached for a fairer and more equitable allocation to West Bengal of the revenue derived from West Bengal from income-tax and other sources. Take for instance, income-tax. As far as I understand, revenue derived from income-tax from the province of undivided Bengal was over Rs. 20 crores, out of which Rs. 19 crores was derived from Calcutta itself and the rest of the province contributed only one crore. The Centre should be approached to allocate at least half of Rs. 19 crores to West Bengal out of the income-tax revenue. We should press for the allocation of 50 per cent. of the income-tax revenue which is derived from Calcutta itself, i.e., Rs. 9½ crores. Bengal is not a solvent province, and more substantial help from the Centre is imperative.

On the question of the Education Grant, one remarkable feature of the statement is that under the Education Budget provision has been made for facilities in various directions. The late bureaucratic Government and the last Government pursued a policy of obscurantism in the matter of Education and made the bulk of the people grow up in ignorance. Let us hope that under the ægis of the new Government the light of knowledge will be more widely spread. I think it was Goethe who said when the shades of evening were deepening on him, "more light, more light!" Education has been defined as the transmission of light and life from the living through the living to the living. Let us hope that under the new dispensation the light of knowledge, like the sun above, will shine equally on the rich, the poor, the lowly, the depressed and the repressed. Well, on the subject of education I cannot forget the solid and real contributions made by two sons of Bengal—real patriots, undoubted patriots they were to the advancement of scientific knowledge and scientific research—I mean Sir Rashbehari Ghose and Sir Taraknath Palit They gave their all to the province so that the Bengalees may find a place in the world of science, but to our shame they passed away from the land of their birth unwept, unhonoured and unsung. All India is benefited by their munificence. I suggest another method for spreading the light of knowledge—a rapid method by which the track of years may be covered by the march of months. This will be through the media of cinemas in the villages. By installing cinemas in the villages and by radio broadcast and extension of cinema films, the untaught may be taught quickly and rapidly. I am glad to find that in the Budget statement there is no stringency, no parsimony in the matter of grant to education. Parsimony in the matter of educational grant would, I say, be false economy.

As regards expenditure under the head "Police", I find that the police has got the pride of place. Hitherto the police failed to inspire confidence. Let us hope that with the dawning of the new era the police may henceforth be inspired by the spirit of service and will be able to justify the huge expenditure under the head "Grant to Police".

Public health should not be neglected and I think the subject of public health has not been neglected in the budget. The health of the people is a valuable national asset, and an expenditure in the matter of public health is never wasted.

Then I come to the housing problem. There I find fifty lakhs for housing schemes for middle class people in Calcutta and its environs, twenty lakhs for housing of inmates of slums of *bustees*, fifty lakhs for the Kanchrapara Area Development scheme. Sir, this is only a drop in the ocean. More extensive public and private encouragement should be forthcoming for dealing with the problem of housing on a comprehensive scale. I sound a note of caution that the money does not fall in the hands of speculators, racketeers, black-marketeers and other anti-social elements. What I would suggest is that

those middle class people who want to build houses of their own should be provided with building materials such as iron, steel, cement at controlled rates. That would be a great help and impetus for building houses.

Under Medical and Agriculture I find, 1,05 lakhs and 2.31 lakhs respectively, under Forest, 27·52 lakhs, Irrigation, 1·47 lakhs, Agricultural Development, 82·27 lakhs. Now about Agriculture. In my home district of 24-Parganas, for instance, we find desolate and deserted villages. Many lands are lying fallow. But these villages by irrigation and by grants of agricultural seeds could be converted into smiling villages. We find most of these villages are water-logged; most have become fallow and wastes, and we find vast stretches of waste land in villages and nothing is grown there. Now, while agricultural seeds are to be given to agriculturists I sound another note of caution and that is that seeds which would be given to them should be genuine and good seeds because the agriculturists have to pay for them and they should not be supplied with seeds which do not germinate like the boats which never floated. I find from the budget statement that greater emphasis has been laid on neglected nation-building items. We should put on full steam in putting through nation-building programmes. Stress should be laid, as has been laid in the Budget statement, on the development of cottage industries. Every village in the good old days had its own cottage industries. Let them start *charkha* there and other industries and also sericulture should be there. There should be cultivation of silk in 24-Parganas because I am aware that as an experimental measure it was quite successful there. West Bengal's economy should be based on a sound footing by the development of her resources. Now as many things have to be done about the abolition of zamindaries, what I would suggest is these two ways: first, agricultural co-operative farming and consolidation of holdings because most of these holdings are uneconomic. The minimum economic holding should be at least twelve bighas. Generally the holdings are scattered in the village and one man has got twelve small plots in twelve different areas. Instead of that, consolidate the holdings into one and start agricultural operations on that basis. About the abolition of zamindaries mere change of masters will not do, that is, in place of present landlords do not bring in khas mahal system. The khas mahal landlords are the most unsympathetic landlords. I will tell an instance which happened in Orissa. In the Khurdah khas mahal the patwari was noted for his rapacity, corruption and bribe-taking. He was dismissed by the Collector and he filed an appeal to the Commissioner. The Commissioner admitted the appeal and directed the Peshkar to issue notices on the dismissed *sarrarkar* and newly appointed *sarrarkar* to appear in his Court. When the appeal was being heard he sent for the new *sarrarkar* and looking at him he said, "This man looks every inch a rascal. Send for the old one". Looking at him, he said, "He too looks a rascal". Then why should I part with my old rascal. He dismissed the newly appointed *sarrakar* and reinstated the old *sarrarkar*. Therefore mere change of landlords will not be of any avail. Land belongs to the cultivator. It was decided long ago when the great rent case was first argued before the full bench that the land belongs to the cultivator who tills the soil. Proceed on this basis. Give the land to the cultivator. Give him a consolidated holding. Give him an economic holding. If there is agriculture—full production; then our woes and worries would be over and our days of disappointment and distress would soon be over.

Jai Hind.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 5-47 p.m. till 3-45 p.m. on Monday, the 23rd February, 1948, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 23rd February 1948, at 3-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 54 Members.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Abolition of Control System.

*4. **Sri ANNADAPRASAD MANDAL:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of abolishing the control system at once?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware about the distress of the people in regard to supply of food, cloth and other daily wants of life?

(c) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he has taken to meet the distress of the people in regard to these?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: (a) Salt, sugar, pulses and consumer goods and textiles have already been decontrolled. Regarding rice, paddy, wheat and wheat products the honourable member is referred to the Press announcement made on the 10th December, 1947. Abolition of control over other articles is under consideration of Government. So far as West Bengal is concerned immediate decontrol of cereals is out of the question.

(b) Yes.

(c) The honourable member is referred to the answer to part (a) of the question. It is hoped that with gradual decontrol and restoration of normal trade for which there has been such a strong demand from the public, trade will realise their responsibility and play their part fairly. So far as rice and paddy are concerned, this Government are immediately embarking upon a programme of intensive procurement of the new crop within the Province. Distress of people with regard to food and cloth will continue so long as long-term schemes, such as Damodar and Mor, are not completed and industries developed. All short-term schemes under contemplation of the Government will need the co-operation of the people who alone can alleviate the distress. As regards other articles, this Government have made representations to the Centre for increased supplies.

Sri SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that rice is now being sold in black market?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: Yes.

Sri SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: At what price rice is being sold in black market?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: It varies from Rs. 25 to Rs. 40 per maund.

Sri SATISH CHANDRA BOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that textiles are being sold in black market?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: It is decontrolled and therefore there is no black market.

Sri ANANDILAL PODDAR: What is the source of information of the Hon'ble Minister about the present black market?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: It is the usual source.

Sri ANANDILAL PODDAR: What is the meaning of "usual source" and what actions are being taken by the Government to find out the real place of this black market?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: Usual source is the usual source.

Sri ANANDILAL PODDAR: Sir, I want a definite answer; I want your protection.

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: No definite answer can be given to a thing like that.

Sri RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া করে বলবেন কি—যখন এই কাপড় decontrol হ'ল তখন Bengal Textile Associationএর কাছে যে সমস্ত কাপড় জমা ছিল, সেগুলি কিভাবে distribution হ'ল?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: Bengal Textile Associationএর কাছে প্রায় ৪০ হাজার গাঁট কাপড় frozen রয়েছে। সেই কাপড়ের উপর ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে কর বসিয়েছেন সেই কর তারা দেয় নাই বলে এখনও তা বাজারে বেরুতে পারে নাই।

Sri HEMANTA KUMAR BASU: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি—যে সমস্ত কাপড় বাজারে দেওয়া হয়েছে তাতে যে দাম ধরা হয়েছে তার চেয়ে উচ্চ দরে বাজারে কাপড় বিক্রী হচ্ছে?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট সমস্ত কাপড়ের উপর থেকে control তুলে দিয়েছেন। সুতরাং তার দাম কি আছে কি না আছে সেটা বর্ত্তমানে সিভিল সাপ্লাইএর জানা দরকার নাই।

Sri HEMANTA KUMAR BASU: গভর্ণমেণ্টের কি কর্ত্তব্য নয় কোন জিনিষ যদি উচ্চ দরে বিক্রী হয় এবং তাতে যথেষ্ট লাভ হয় তার জন্য কোন পৃথক ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: গভর্ণমেণ্ট এ জিনিষটা ভালভাবে লক্ষ্য করছেন এবং যদি আমরা দেখি যে decontrolএর ফল খারাপ হচ্ছে, তাহ'লে আমরা ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্টকে অনুরোধ করবো পুনরায় control প্রবর্ত্তন করবার জন্য।

Sri RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট যখন ঐ সব কাপড় ছেড়ে দেবেন, তখন ঐ কাপড়গুলো কিভাবে distributed হবে?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: Normal trade channel-এর ভেতর দিয়ে হবে।

Sri BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি যে সমস্ত কাপড় বাজারে বিক্রী করতে দেওয়া হয়েছে দোকানদারেরা সেই কাপড় কি দরে বেচবে? কারণ সাধারণতঃ আমরা দেখছি অতিরিক্ত দরে কাপড় বিক্রী হচ্ছে।

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে সমস্ত কাপড় freezed করেছিলেন ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্টের আদেশ অনুযায়ী, সেই সমস্ত কাপড়ের উপর cess বসান হয়েছে। আর যে সমস্ত কাপড়ের উপর cess বসান হয় নাই সেগুলো খুচ্‌রা খুচ্‌রা দোকানদারেরা যে দরে ইচ্ছা বিক্রী করতে পারে।

Sri HEMANTA KUMAR BASU : Black-market-এ যে চাল বিক্রী হয়, সে চালের পরিমাণ কত?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : তার পরিমাণ জানা নেই।

Sri PRAMATHA NATH BANDYOPADHYAY : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলবেন কি—যে পরিমাণ চাল গভর্ণমেন্ট কন্ট্রোলে দিচ্ছেন, সেই পরিমাণ চালে ক'লকাতার লোক পেট ভ'রে খেতে পাচ্ছে না?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : আমার মনে হয় ক'লকাতার লোক পেট ভ'রে খেতে পাচ্ছে না—যে পরিমাণ চাল কন্ট্রোলে দেওয়া হচ্ছে।

Sri PRAMATHA NATH BANDYOPADHYAY: Black-market থেকে কিনে যদি চালের অভাব পূরণ করতে হয়, তাহ'লে decontrol করলে লোকে আরও স্বাভাবিকভাবে চাল পেতে পারে না কি?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : আমার মনে হয় black-market থেকে যে চাল সংগ্রহ করা হয়, তাতেও সকল লোক পেট ভ'রে খেতে পায় না।

Sri HEMANTA KUMAR BASU : Black-market বন্ধ করবার কি ব্যবস্থা হচ্ছে?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : Black-market বন্ধ করবার জন্য যা যা দরকার সবই করা হচ্ছে।

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOUDHURY : মন্ত্রী মহাশয় answer-এর প্রথমাংশের paragraph-এ যে বলেছেন—Abolition of control over other articles is under consideration of Government, সেই "other articles" গুলো কি কি?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : কেরোসিন, কয়লা ইত্যাদি।

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOUDHURY : কেরোসিন কি Central Government এর হাতে, না Provincial Government-এর হাতে? গভর্ণমেন্ট ইচ্ছা করলে কেরোসিন decontrol করতে পারেন কি?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: I want notice.

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOUDHURY : উত্তরের দ্বিতীয় paragraph-এ মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলেছেন যে দামোদর ও মোর পরিকল্পনা যতদিন না কার্যে পরিণত হয়, ও industries developed না হয়, ততদিন পর্যন্ত আমাদের কাপড় ও খাদ্যদ্রব্যের দুঃখ ঘুচবে না। মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া করে বলবেন কি—কতদিনের মধ্যে এই দামোদর ও মোর তৈরী হ'লে আমাদের দুঃখ দুর্দশা ঘুচবে?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : দুই হইতে দশ বছরের মধ্যে।

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOUDHURY : এই দশ বছরের মধ্যে আর কি কি করণীয় আছে?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : সমস্ত ছোট ছোট পরিকল্পনাগুলোকে কার্যে পরিণত করতে হবে।

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOUDHURY : সেই ছোট ছোট পরিকল্পনা কার্যে পরিণত হলে পর আমরা কি পরিমাণ খাদ্যশস্য পেতে পারবো?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : এ বিষয়ে কৃষি বিভাগকে জিজ্ঞাসা করলে ভাল হয়।

Sri KANAI LAL DE : মন্ত্রী মহাশয় তাহ'লে আর কত বছর ধান চালের উপর control রাখতে চান?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : সেটা আমাদের দেশের ও আন্তঃর্জাতিক অবস্থার উপর নির্ভর করবে।

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানেন কি এই procurement সম্বন্ধে আর cereal সম্বন্ধে ও খাদ্যশস্য সম্বন্ধে মহাত্মা গান্ধীর কি নীতি ছিল?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : হ্যাঁ, জানি।

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN : সেটা কি?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : মহাত্মা গান্ধীর নীতি ছিল—যথাশীঘ্র সম্ভব decontrol করা।

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN : সেই নীতি আপনারা কি মানেন, না, মানেন না?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : কোন্ সম্পর্কে আপনি বলছেন?

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN : খাদ্যশস্য সম্বন্ধে বলছি।

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : সমস্ত অবস্থা বিবেচনা করে ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট খাদ্যশস্য সম্বন্ধে যে progressive decontrolএর নীতি গ্রহণ করেছেন, এবং মহাত্মা গান্ধী যেটা সমর্থন করেছিলেন, আমরাও সেই নীতি অনুসরণ করছি।

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN : আপনি বলছেন progressive decontrol আর অন্নদা বাবু উত্তর দিলেন দশ বছর লেগে যাবে।

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : দশ বছরের মধ্যে অবস্থা ভাল হবে—এই কথাই বলা হয়েছে—কন্ট্রোল ওঠার সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলা হয় নাই।

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN : তবে আপনার কন্ট্রোল করবার উদ্দেশ্যটা কি?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : কন্ট্রোলের উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে গ্রামে যাতে দুর্ভিক্ষ না হয় সেইজন্য সহরের লোককে কম খাওয়ান।

Janab MUDASSIR HOSSAIN : Black-market বন্ধ করাও তো একটা উদ্দেশ্য। যদি black-marketই চলতে থাকে তাহ'লে উদ্দেশ্য সাধিত হ'ল কি করে?

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member will sit down when the Hon'ble Minister replies

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN : আপনারা যদি black-marketএ না কেনেন, তাহ'লেই Black-market বন্ধ হয়ে যাবে। গভর্ণমেণ্টের তরফ থেকেও black-market বন্ধ করবার যতদূর সম্ভব চেষ্টা হচ্ছে?

Sri KANAILAL DASS: On a point of order Sir, I submit that all questions should be addressed to the Speaker.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action Government is taking against those who are selling rice at black market rates at Dhapa, which is only 2½ miles from the Government House?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: When they are caught they are punished.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if every day more than 25 people sell rice at that place?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: I have no information.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he intends to go to that place to-morrow?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: If necessary, I will go.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister will please stand up when he replies.

Janab JASIMUDDIN AHMED: কালো বাজারের চা'লের দাম বলা হয়েছে—তাহ'লে সাদা বাজারের দামটা কি গ্রামাঞ্চলে ও কলিকাতায়?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: এ প্রশ্নের উত্তর supplementaryতে দেওয়া হয়েছে।

Janab JASIMUDDIN AHMED: সেটা বলেছেন কালো বাজারের দাম। সাদা বাজারের দামটা কি বাংলাদেশের গ্রামে?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: বাংলাদেশে এক এক জেলাতে এক এক রকম rate. আমরা কোন rate বেঁধে দেই নাই। সব জায়গায় এক রকম rate নয়।

Janab JASIMUDDIN AHMED: তাহ'লে গ্রামাঞ্চলে চা'লের কোন বাঁধা দাম নেই?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: গ্রামাঞ্চলে চালের দাম বেঁধে দেওয়া হয় নাই।

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: গ্রামাঞ্চলে চা'লের দাম বেঁধে দেওয়া হয় নাই—তবে সেখানে কেনা বেচা হচ্ছে কি দরে?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: যেখানে procurement area সেখানে চা'লের দাম বাঁধা, আর non-procurement areaতে কোন চা'লের দাম বাঁধা নাই।

Sri ANANDILAL PODDAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that wherever and whenever things were decontrolled prices have come down and things have become available at less than controlled rates?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: Yes.

Sri ANANDILAL PODDAR: Then what is the reason for not decontrolling rice and wheat?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: Because it is risky as the supply is very short.

Sri ANANDILAL PODDAR: What is the reason that the decontrolling of sugar and cloth was not risky?

The Hon'ble Sri PRAFULLA CHANDRA SEN: Because it was decontrolled just at the right moment.

Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the West Bengal Premises Rent Control (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1947.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, with your permission I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the West Bengal Premises Rent Control (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1947, which is due before the House.

General Discussion of the Budget.

Janab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make just a few remarks on the budget statement that has been presented before the House by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. Before entering into the financial side of the budget my friend has given us a political picture of West and East Bengal compared to other parts of India. He has said that the innate good sense has begun to assert itself, and to West Bengal belongs the proud distinction of being the first to recover sanity. This remark of

the Hon'ble Minister might hold good in the case of South Bengal but I am sorry to say that that is not the case so far as Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts are concerned. There the same insane outbursts which prevailed in other parts in India have not yet disappeared. The Government there exists in name only, but in reality mob rule exists there in its entirety. The police and the magistracy are both absolutely under the control of Congress volunteers, Congress caste-Hindu M.L.A.s and the officers have to work under the directive of the members of the Congress organisation. The magistracy there exists in name only, but they are hopelessly and helplessly under the guidance of these people. In course of a search of the house of a prominent citizen the police seized some of the papers found and left the rest to the Congress Volunteers for examination. At the dictation of Congress workers, Jalpaiguri has been robbed of the services of practically all Muslim lawyers, doctors and business men. When I present this picture of the political events in my own district, my friends opposite may say that this is due to the Ordinance that has been promulgated against the Muslim National Guard organisation. But I may tell my friends opposite that at present there is no national guard organisation in the district of Jalpaiguri. Whatever organisation existed there prior to 15th August last has transferred itself to Pakistan areas and no trace of any paper concerned with that organisation could be found in the search conducted by the police. If members of all professions and trades are to be put in jail or are to be threatened to be arrested, what would be the desire of such people there to save themselves save and except that of transfer of population on Governmental basis? Do my friends opposite desire that 53 lakhs of Muslims of West Bengal should be transferred to East Bengal and the East Bengal Government should be asked to transfer the Hindu population there to West Bengal. Economically, I believe, this is an unsound proposition. I may just tell my friends here that the difference in number between the West Bengal Muslims and East Bengal Hindus is 80 lakhs. If 80 lakhs more of people are transferred from East Bengal to West Bengal without an inch of land with them, what will be the food position of West Bengal? At present West Bengal cannot feed its own population. Suppose you transfer 80 lakhs more of people from East Bengal, can you feed them? Don't you know that you will require at least 8 crores of maunds of paddy to feed 80 lakhs of surplus population of East Bengal? What will be the cost of this 8 crores of maunds of paddy? It will amount to 80 crores of rupees. Where will you get that fund to feed these people and why are you exasperating the minority community to ask for the transfer of population? Here I see the Congress Volunteers and M.L.A.s are making the lives of the minority community absolutely intolerable. Could not the present Ministry tackle the problem in a right spirit and try to restore the confidence of the Muslim population there? In short, I appeal earnestly to the Ministry that the insanity that is still prevailing in my area should be enquired into and suppressed as early as possible.

Sir, chief among the problems that face the West Bengal administration is one of foodstuffs. The Bengal Government before partition was given the assurance by Lord Wavell that Calcutta and its suburbs and also Jalpaiguri would be fed by the Government of India and the supplies will come from outside Bengal. Before the achievement of independence the Provincial Government did not accept the total responsibility of feeding the people of these areas, but now with the acquisition of independence the India Government has accepted the responsibility and it is meet and proper that it should be discharged by the Government of India. The deficits arising from the Civil Supplies Department should be met by the Government of India and not by our Government here. The question may be asked, why should the Government of India suffer the loss? My answer is that these are industrial areas and more than half the profits of these industries go to the Government of India, the Bengal Government getting a very small part of it as contribution from the Centre. The tea industry alone supplies

about 5 to 6 crores of rupees to the Government of India by way of exporting fee, Central excise and income-tax. The industry, therefore, may naturally claim some return of this money from the Government of India and also claim that the labour population should be supplied with foodstuffs by the Government of India as West Bengal cannot produce sufficient food for itself.

I wholeheartedly support the protest of the Hon'ble Minister to the proposed reduction from 20 per cent. to 12 per cent. of the divisible pool of the income-tax and I am sure that with the unanimous support of the whole House, the Hon'ble Minister will succeed in his appeal.

There are many other points on which I should have spoken but I do not like to discuss them at this stage. I want to point out only one fact before the Hon'ble Finance Minister and that is this. He has got problems facing the country, specially in regard to road-making. Though money will come from the Centre, the Bengal Government will have to make all those roads, but those roads are divided into several sections—some are national highways and others are district roads. As regards district roads, I do not know whether any scheme has been prepared by my friend at present. I doubt it, but if it has been prepared I hope it will be carried out, and before all these things are done, is it not the duty of this Government to see that the existing roads belonging to the P.W.D. are kept in proper order? I know the roads of Alipur Duars subdivision belonging to the P.W.D. are in hopeless condition. The roads exist in name only. They were first class roads—tar macadam—before the war. At present you may hardly call them roads—they are all wrecks. If these roads belonging to the Provincial Government are not looked after, I find no necessity for them to start with new ventures. I do not know whether my friends at all care to listen to our speeches, but I hope the gentleman who is interested at least in this subject should take note of this. Before they make any new road, they should put the old roads in order first. Having done that, they can spend some more money on new roads. I hope my friend—I do not know whom I am to address because I do not know who is the gentleman in charge, Mr. Sarkar is not in charge—if Mr. Sinha is in charge, I hope he will look into my complaint and see that something at least is done in repairing the existing roads. They are not roads at all now. We call them roads—pass by them and you will see that you cannot go even three miles an hour.

There are many other problems on which I may speak later on when voting begins. I would rather end after congratulating the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the way in which he has distributed the money in the first budget—the schemes are not there but he has treated them fairly.

Mr. C. E. CLARKE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Commercial Associations I represent I particularly desire to offer our congratulations to the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the concise and lucid manner in which the first post-partition budget has been presented. This could not have been an easy task and all things considered I feel justified in concluding that the budget is less pessimistic than the deficit as shown seems to indicate. Early in his address the Hon'ble Minister said, "We breathe the air of freedom and the power to shape our destiny lies in the hands of our own people." I was particularly pleased to hear this observation by the Hon'ble Minister as it gives me the opportunity of explaining my presence in the House. It would be erroneous, for instance, for my colleagues to assume that I am here as a European. It would be even more erroneous for Press Reporters to convey to their journals that observations made by myself are on behalf of any European party. I and my colleague are here as representatives of Commercial Chambers and Associations, and the views put forward are definitely those of the interests we represent. In other words, our interests are inseparable and indivisible from the fortunes of the province in which we live.

So far as immediate finances are concerned the budget suggests that West Bengal has not suffered too drastically and might almost be said to have benefited by partition. Whether this condition can continue in the future depends on the energy and foresight with which a constructive policy is pursued. The present figures show that West Bengal relies for its revenue to a very major extent on returns from Commerce, Industry and Trade. The tax on income, Customs Receipts, the Sales Tax, the Jute Tax and Excise as indirectly commercial, represent more than 75 per cent. of the total revenues of the province. While commerce is enjoying fair prosperity as a continuation of the conditions bred by the war and the post-war period, a slump either in the nature of a post-war depression, which many apprehend, or by the slow stagnation of trade arising from the cleavage in the commercial organisation of the former Bengal, or from an ill-conceived policy towards commercial interests, bodes ill for this new province and its attractive programme for betterment for its people. It therefore behoves a Government in this province to concede the vital importance of commerce as an intrinsic item of its economic structure and that commercial welfare is the foundation of the province's prosperity.

The assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister that the Government, in so far as allowed by all-India commitments, recognises the need of furnishing assistance to industries of all kinds is thus doubly welcome, both from the aspect of Industry itself and from the wider interest of the province as a whole. The fact that increases in taxation have been avoided, is a relief to a population already hard-pressed by rising costs

Valuables as are the measures envisaged for labour welfare in the budget, it is hoped, Sir, that in a year's time we shall be considering much more ambitious proposals. The housing of industrial labour in congested urban areas is a problem which is becoming increasingly acute as the position of housing in general deteriorates with rising urban populations. Admittedly it is not a problem of which industrial management can disclaim all responsibility but there are aspects which make it difficult for individual associations to act alone. I understand, Sir, that in some localities there is a danger of labour housing being displaced to make space for still more factories. Comprehensive planning on a basis of co-operation between Government, commercial interests and labour are demanded.

The Hon'ble Minister for Finance in making provision for Rehabilitation in certain urban areas has announced his expectations of a full recovery of the outlay on these projects. I cannot ascertain from the explanatory memorandum the manner in which these recoveries will be effected, neither has the Finance Minister enlarged on this point. But whether any project is to be treated as one of development on which financial assistance from the Government of India can be claimed, or whether as an investment from which a return will be secured by rental or similar charges on the benefits provided, the same conditions, surely, will equally apply to similar plans for industrial housing assistance. These deserve to be considered on a larger scale since the financial implications are merely in the nature of a profitable investment. The benefit to the community from the fruition of such schemes is unquestionable, but there is, besides, the obvious civic advantage of improved living conditions for a section of the population on an organised and healthy basis.

While on the subject of Rehabilitation and Planning, it will be recalled that the extension of the Calcutta Improvement Trust to the Municipality of Howrah has been strongly pressed in the House for several years. Enacting legislation had actually been passed by the former Assembly and only awaited approval of the Council when constitutional changes arrested further progress. I cannot too urgently stress that so obviously desirable a measure, furnishing as it does protection against uncontrolled urban growth and ensuring healthy and balanced urban conditions, should no longer be delayed.

I fear that I am only too conscious of the difficulties to which the Hon'ble Minister has alluded in preparing an integrated development plan, but I do take the opportunity to stress that the past programme of development on which the prosperity of the province relies has suffered almost complete inanition and while there have admittedly been other causes, this is—not to a small extent—attributable to a lack of comprehensive planning down to district level. I venture accordingly to urge that early opportunities be taken to put development projects on to an integrated and planned basis for the whole province. The shortage of materials and technically qualified personnel is today a *sine qua non* of any material improvement plans. Planning will ensure that available resources are used in the right place and in the right order with an economy of effort to secure cumulative expansion and acceleration of the programme, the elimination of bottle-necks and the stimulation of enthusiasm amongst those responsible for the work.

One of the subjects raised *ad nauseam* in this former House from these seats is the need for an energetic Road Development policy. For this reason I perceive with appreciation the enhanced grant under this head. Its essential importance is stressed, as it has been many times before, of developing the appalling, inadequate communication facilities in the province as a basis for any planned programme of economic and consequent social betterment.

It is noticed with satisfaction also that some increase has been possible in the Police Grant. It is hoped that this will be reflected in a more effective control of the many lawless elements that continue to operate to the disadvantage of the honest citizen. One such development now assuming ever more alarming proportions is the wave of house-breaking and burglary crimes which are terrorising a large percentage of the population of Calcutta.

The Hon'ble Minister has presented his budget in a spirit of cautious optimism. There is no doubt that it has evoked a reaction which might be described as almost agreeable surprise and certainly of reassurance from public opinion, and it is undoubtedly hoped that his forecasts will be abundantly realised and that his campaign for the improvement in the life of the common man may achieve signal success.

In conclusion, Sir, I would mention that in my observations I have purposely confined myself to generalities. The special points embracing Agriculture, Income-Tax, Labour and a host of other important items will be more fully dealt with by my colleague on some future occasion.

Sri BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে তাঁর বর্ত্তমান বাজেটের জন্য অভিনন্দন করছি। কিন্তু তিনি তপশীলভুক্ত সম্প্রদায়ের প্রতি যে নীতি অবলম্বন করেছেন, বিশেষতঃ তাদের education সম্বন্ধে, তার জন্য আমি তপশীলিদের পক্ষ হতে তাঁর বিরুদ্ধে তীব্র প্রতিবাদ জানাচ্ছি। পূর্ব্বে যখন তিনি অর্থসচিব ছিলেন, তিনিই এই তপশীলী-দের জন্য একটা separate education fund করেছিলেন, কিন্তু দুঃখের কথা, তাঁহারই আমলে এইবার সেই fund টি বিলুপ্ত হয়ে গেল। সেই fund এর জন্য আমাদের অনেক কিছু fight করতে হয়েছিল, তপশীলভুক্ত সকল দল একত্রিত হয়ে প্রবল আন্দোলন ও fight করার ফলেই এই fundএর সৃষ্টি হয়েছিল। আজ সেই fund তাঁরই আমলে লোপ পেল—এটা বড়ই পরিতাপের কথা। তিনি বাজেটে যে provision করেছেন, তাতে দেখতে পাই......

Page 90 of the Red Book.—A non-lapsable fund called the fund for promotion of education amongst educationally backward classes has been created for the purpose of providing special educational facilities to members of the scheduled castes as well as to other educationally backward classes including Muslims. The provision for contribution to this fund is Rs. 6,38,000 in the current year and Rs. 10,36,000 in 1948-49.

আমাদের শিক্ষাসচিব মহাশয়ের যে Secretary তাঁরই একটা circularএ দেখতে পাই—

Special educational funds.—It has been decided that there shall be no special funds in future for the advancement of education of Muslims,

Scheduled Castes, Buddhists, Christians. There should be one consolidated fund for promoting the education of those who are educationally backward and this will be divided into sections to provide for:—

(1) Scheduled Castes education of all kinds.

(2) Women's education.

(3) Muslim education.

(4) Education of backward classes and tribal people.

এই সমস্তের জন্য দশ লক্ষ ছত্রিশ হাজার টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে for 1948-49 এবং current yearএর জন্য দশ লক্ষ আটত্রিশ হাজার টাকা। এই ব্যয় বরাদ্দে আমরা খুবই আশ্চর্যান্বিত ও হতাশ হয়েছি। সমস্ত education fundএ মোট বরাদ্দ হয়েছে দুই কোটি চোদ্দ লক্ষ তিপ্পান্ন হাজার, কিন্তু এই টাকার মধ্য হতে, সমস্ত পশ্চিম বঙ্গের তপশীলী সম্প্রদায়ের জন্য—যারা সমস্ত অধিবাসীর এক-চতুর্থাংশ হবে—তাদের জন্য ও অন্যান্য সম্প্রদায়ের জন্য মাত্র দশ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে। এটা খুবই আশ্চর্যের বিষয়। তিনি তাঁর Budget speech শেষ করেছেন "মহাত্মাজীকি জয়" বলে, কিন্তু আমাকে দুঃখের সঙ্গে বলতে হচ্ছে যে হরিজনদের সম্বন্ধে মহাত্মাজীর অনুসৃত নীতি তিনি পালন করেননি। মহাত্মাজী হরিজনদের উন্নয়নের যে সব পরিকল্পনা করেছেন তা কি তাঁর জানা নেই? গান্ধীজি "হরিজন" পত্রিকা বের করেছেন এবং তিনি ভাঙ্গি পল্লীতে বাস করে গেছেন। আর তাঁর অবর্ত্তমানে আমাদের এই অবস্থা। এটা অত্যন্ত দুঃখের বিষয়। আশা করি, অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এ বিষয়ে দৃষ্টি রাখবেন।

তারপর কথা হচ্ছে, আমাদের তপশীলী ছাত্র সম্প্রদায়, যারা স্কুল কলেজে পড়ে, তাদের যে stipend দেওয়া হয়, সেটা খুবই কম। আমি একটা list আপনাদের কাছে দিচ্ছি—

Post-graduate	ছেলে	..	৪০
Engineering Collegesএর	,,	..	২৫
Arts Collegesএর	,,	..	১,২০০
Classes VII—Xএর	,,	..	৭,০০০
Classes V—VIএর	,,	..	১২,০০০

এই সমস্ত ছেলেদের কথা বলছি। এই সমস্ত ছেলেদের শতকরা দশ বারজন মাত্র stipend পায়। অধিকাংশ ছেলেরাই গরীব। পেটের অন্নের জন্য তাদের খেটে খেতে হয়। মাহিনারা (?) অঞ্চলের একটি গ্রামের কথা বলি। সেখানের গরীব তপশীলী একটি ছেলেকে বাগানে কোদাল মারতে হয় পেটের খোরাক জোগাবার জন্য; তারপর যেতে হয় স্কুলে পড়ার জন্য। এই রকম করে অধিকাংশ ছেলেদের লেখাপড়া করতে হয়। তারপর unlike East Bengal পশ্চিম বঙ্গে তপশীলী সম্প্রদায়ের লোক বিভিন্ন জায়গায় ছড়ান— scattered । প্রায় ছেলেকে ২।৩ ক্রোশ দূর থেকে হেঁটে আসতে হয় লেখা-পড়া করার জন্য। তার উপর তারা অধিকাংশ গরীব। তাদের যদি stipend দেওয়া না হয়, তারা পড়তেই পারবে না। তারপর আপনারা হয়ত জানেন—Indian Dominion Parliamentএ একটা resolution এসেছিল। সে resolutionটা Hindusthan Standardএ বেরিয়েছিল।সেটা হচ্ছে—

> "This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of India should take adequate steps for the amelioration of the condition of the Scheduled Castes by way of providing them with house sites and drinking water and also by way of supplementing educational grants sanctioned by Provincial Governments."

সেখানে যে প্রস্তাব করা হয়েছিল, তাতে বলা হয়েছিল যে বছর বছর এক কোটী টাকা ব্যয় করা হোক—দশ বছরের জন্য—তপশীলী সম্প্রদায়ের অবস্থা উন্নয়নের জন্য। গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে স্বাস্থ্যসচিব রাজকুমারী অমৃত কাউর বলেছেন যে অস্পৃশ্যতা দূর করতে সরকার বদ্ধপরিকর। সেই সময় তিনি আরও বলেছিলেন যে, প্রস্তাবে যে টাকার কথা বলা হয়েছে, হরিজনরা তার চেয়ে বেশী পাবে এবং তিনি এও বলেছিলেন যে, তিনি লিখিত নির্দ্দেশ Provincial Governmentএর কাছে পাঠিয়ে দেবেন যাতে তাঁরা যথাযথভাবে কাজ করেন। আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্ট এইরূপ কোন directive পেয়েছেন কি না জানি না, কিন্তু এদিকে তাঁদের দৃষ্টি রাখা দরকার।

তারপর Scheduled Casteএর জন্য H. E. School আছে ২০টি and M. E. School ৭০টি। এসব পশ্চিম বঙ্গের জন্য। আমি এখানে অনুরোধ করছি যে এখানের যে সব ছেলেকে stipend দেওয়া হয়, তা যেন একটা definite সময়েই দেওয়া হয়। বছরের প্রথম ভাগে দেওয়ার কথা—এ সম্বন্ধে আমরা বহু question দিয়েছি, কিন্তু কোন ব্যবস্থা হয়নি। আশা করি অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এদিকে দৃষ্টি রাখবেন। বছরের মাঝামাঝি বা শেষ ভাগে টাকা দিলে গরীব ছেলেরা অনেক সময় সময়মত মাহিনা দিতে পারে না এবং তাদের নাম কাটা যায়। এ রকম যেন না হয়।

তারপর Scheduled Caste ছেলেদের থাকবার কত অসুবিধা কলকাতায়। তপশীলী সম্প্রদায়ের ছেলেদের থাকবার মত ৪টা hostel আছে। মোট সংখ্যা হচ্ছে ১৯০ জন ছেলে। তার মধ্যে পূর্ববঙ্গের ছেলে ১৪২ জন; পশ্চিম বঙ্গের ৪৮টি। অনেকেই seat পায় না ও থাকতে পারে না। আমি প্রস্তাব করছি—তাদের জন্য, তপশীলী সম্প্রদায়ের ছেলেরা যাতে সুবিধামত থাকতে পারে, সেই জন্য আর একটা hostel করা হোক।

পরিশেষে আমার বক্তব্য—তপশীলী সম্প্রদায়ের ছেলেদের জন্য special fund যেন করা হয় এবং তা বাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হয়। এ সম্পর্কে আমি অর্থসচিব মহাশয়, প্রধান মন্ত্রী এবং Education Minister সঙ্গে সাক্ষাৎ করেছি। তাঁরা জানেন এ রকম special fund ছিল এবং তাঁরাও বলেছেন আমাদের জন্য special fund করবেন। আমার অনুরোধ up-lift of Scheduled Casteএর জন্য ১০।১২ লক্ষ টাকা যেন separate করে রাখা হয়। Scheduled Casteএর ছেলেরা যাতে বই, slate প্রভৃতি পায়, তাদের লেখাপড়ার ব্যবস্থা করতে পারে এবং তাদের শিক্ষার উন্নতি সম্ভব হয়, তার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের অবহিত ও যত্নশীল হওয়া উচিত।

Sri HEMANTA KUMAR BASU: মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয়, আমি খুবই আনন্দিত হতাম যদি মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এই বাজেট বাংলা ভাষায় উপস্থাপিত করতেন। কারণ আজ আমরা যখন স্বাধীনতা লাভ করেছি, সেই স্বাধীনতা আমাদের জীবনের সর্বক্ষেত্রে স্ফূর্ত হওয়া উচিত। সেইদিক থেকে বাংলা ভাষা বাঙ্গালীর যখন মাতৃভাষা এবং সেই ভাষায় যখন আমরা শতকরা ৯০ জন লোক কথা বলি ও বুঝি, তখন এই বাজেট ও এখানের যা কিছু কার্য্যধারা, তা বাংলায়ই করা উচিত। আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহোদয়দের একথা বোঝা উচিত। আজ আমরা স্বাধীন হয়েছি। সুতরাং বিদেশী ভাষার মোহ ত্যাগ করে ও তার নাগপাশ ছিন্ন করে আমাদের দেশের নিজস্ব ভাষাকে মর্য্যাদা দান করা উচিত। ইংরেজের শাসনাধীনে দেশ যখন পরাধীন ছিল, ইংরেজী ভাষা গ্রহণ করতে আমরা বাধ্য হয়েছি, কিন্তু আজ সম্পূর্ণভাবে দেশের অবস্থা পরিবর্ত্তিত—স্বাধীন ভারতে আমরা আজ স্বাধীন মানুষ। অবশ্য আমি বলছি না ইংরেজী ভাষা একেবারেই তুলে দিতে হবে। আন্তর্জাতিক কাজে ও ক্ষেত্রে ইংরেজী ভাষার দরকার হতে পারে। কিন্তু আমাদের নিজেদের যে কোন কাজ—সভা-সমিতি বা শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের কাজ—তা বাংলা ভাষাতেই আমাদের চালান উচিত।

মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় আগামী বৎসরের জন্য যে বাজেট পরিষদে উপস্থিত করেছেন, তাতে দেশের বর্ত্তমান অবস্থা বিবেচনা করে প্রশংসা করবার কিছু থাকলেও কংগ্রেস-গঠিত মন্ত্রী-সভা বা কংগ্রেস পার্টি ততদিন ঠিক প্রশংসা পাবার যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে না, যতদিন না আমরা মহাত্মা গান্ধীর আদর্শে শোষণহীন ও শ্রেণীহীন সমাজের প্রতিষ্ঠা করতে পারি এবং আমাদের প্রিয় নেতাজীর "All power to the Indian people" —এই মন্ত্রে যে সমাজ গড়তে চেয়েছিলেন, তা যতদিন গড়ে তুলতে না পারি। এই উভয় মহান নেতার আদর্শকে যদি সফল করে তুলতে হয়, তবে দেশের, বিশেষতঃ কংগ্রেসী দলের মধ্যে যারা বিত্ত ও অর্থশালী, তাদের লক্ষ লক্ষ নিরন্ন, নির্য্যাতিত ও অশিক্ষিত জনসাধারণের জন্য ত্যাগ মন্ত্র গ্রহণ করতে হবে। আমি আশা এবং বিশ্বাস করি, আজ কংগ্রেসের ও দেশের প্রকৃত কর্ম্মীদের দুঃখ ও নির্য্যাতন ভোগের ফলে যে স্বাধীনতা এসেছে, তাকে জনসাধারণের সামাজিক, রাষ্ট্রীয়, অর্থনৈতিক ও সাংস্কৃতিক জীবনে মূর্ত্ত ও স্ফূর্ত্ত করতে হলে, তাঁরা তা নিশ্চয়ই করবেন। আমাদের মন্ত্রীদের মধ্যে যাঁদের কিছু অর্থ আছে, বিপক্ষদল তাঁদের সম্বন্ধে যে সন্দেহ প্রকাশ ও কটাক্ষপাত করেছেন, তার সমুচিত উত্তর তাঁরা কার্য্যের মধ্য দিয়ে দিবেন—এ বিশ্বাস আমার আছে। এ বাজেট হতে তারই সূচনা অনুভূত হচ্ছে।

আমি বাস্তববাদী ও সমাজতান্ত্রিক। দেশ বিদেশের সমাজতন্ত্র-বিপ্লবের ইতিহাসের মধ্য দিয়ে আমি এই শিক্ষাই লাভ করেছি যে বিপ্লবের মধ্য দিয়ে রাজনৈতিক ক্ষমতা হস্তগত হওয়ার সঙ্গে সঙ্গেই কোন রাষ্ট্রই এক দিনে সম্পূর্ণ সমাজতান্ত্রিক রাষ্ট্রে পরিণত হয়নি। যেখানেই সে চেষ্টা হয়েছে, সেখানেই হয় ব্যর্থতা এসেছে নতুবা নানা বাধার ঘাত প্রতিঘাতে সেই রাষ্ট্রকে বিপর্য্যস্ত হতে হয়েছে এবং অনেক ক্ষেত্রে সেই রাষ্ট্রকে তার মূল আদর্শ হতে পিছিয়ে পড়তে হয়েছে।

১৮৪৮ সালের ফরাসী বিপ্লবের ইতিহাস বিফলতার ইতিহাস। কারণ বাস্তব অবস্থার সম্বন্ধে সঠিক জ্ঞান না থাকায় প্যারিস কম্যুন ৬ সপ্তাহের বেশী টিকতে পারেনি। রাশিয়ার পক্ষেও দীর্ঘ ৩১ বছরেও মূল আদর্শে পৌঁছান ত দূরের কথা, মনে হয় যে বিশ্ব ঘটনার ঘাত প্রতিঘাতে তাকে যেন আজ অনেক পিছিয়ে আসতে হচ্ছে; ১৯১৭ সালের বিপ্লবের পর রাশিয়ার সমস্ত বড় বড় শিল্পকে রাষ্ট্রের হাতে নেওয়া হল, কিন্তু রাশিয়ার তদানীন্তন অবস্থায় তথাকার অর্থনৈতিক জীবন তার ফলে এমনই বিপর্য্যস্ত হয়ে পড়ে যে জনসাধারণ দুঃখ-কষ্টের চরম সীমায় গিয়ে পড়ে। কাজেই রাশিয়াকে আবার কতকটা Controled Capitalist Systemএ ফিরতে হয় ও New Economic Policy বা N. E. P. গ্রহণ করতে হয়। এ হল একদিকে বিত্তশালী কৃষক সম্প্রদায়ের সঙ্গে রফা, অন্যদিকে দেশের ও বাইরের ধনিকদের সঙ্গে রফা। আমাদের বন্ধু—কম্যুনিষ্ট পার্টির সভ্য, জ্যোতি বসু মহাশয়—(দুঃখের বিষয় তাঁকে আজ পরিষদ-গৃহে উপস্থিত দেখছি না)—তিনি কি ইতিহাসের সে কথা সম্পূর্ণ বিস্মৃত হয়েছেন? তিনি বারংবার কংগ্রেসী দলকে, বিশেষ মন্ত্রী-সভাকে America ও Britishএর Agent বলে অভিহিত করেছেন। কিন্তু তিনি কি ১৯৪২ সালে তাঁরা যে role play করেছিলেন তা বেমালুম ভুলে গেলেন? সেদিন ভারতবর্ষে যে বিরাট গণবিপ্লব সংঘটিত হয়েছিল, তা ব্যর্থ করার জন্য তাঁরা তাঁদের প্রভু আমেরিকা ও বৃটিশের দাসত্ব করেননি কী? নেতাজী সুভাষচন্দ্রকে তাঁরা বিশ্বাসঘাতক বলে অভিহিত করে গুলি করে মারতে চান নেই কী? তাঁদের সহযোগিতার ফলেই বৃটিশ সাম্রাজ্যবাদ ভারতবর্ষকে যুদ্ধের প্রয়োজনে কী শোষণের শেষ সীমায় নিয়ে যাননি? তার ফলে প্রায় অর্দ্ধ কোটি লোককে অনাহারে প্রাণ হারাতে হয় নাই কী? তাঁরা জনসাধারণের দুঃখে যে বেদনা প্রায়ই প্রকাশ করেন, সেদিন তা কোথায় ছিল? কেবল ধাপ্পা ও বাকচাতুর্য্যের দ্বারা জনসাধারণকে ভোলান সম্ভব নয়। ভারতবর্ষের গত নির্বাচনে ও বোম্বাইএর কয়েকদিন পূর্বের মিউ-নিসিপাল নির্বাচনে তা প্রমাণিত হয়েছে। তিনি কংগ্রেসের খদ্দরধারী সভ্যদের উপর কটাক্ষপাত করেছেন। অথচ তিনি তাঁদের প্রভুদের পোষাকে সজ্জিত হয়ে তাঁদের প্রভুদের ভাষায় অপরকে নিন্দাবাদ করতে কিছুমাত্র দ্বিধাবোধ করেন না—ইহাই আশ্চর্য। তাঁর পার্টির সঙ্গে কি অনেক ধনীর দুলাল নেই? আমার এইরূপ কথা বলার কোনই প্রয়োজন ছিল না, কিন্তু জ্যোতি বসু মহাশয় যেরূপভাবে ও যেরূপ ভাষায় যখন তখন কংগ্রেসকে গালাগালি করেন, তাতে এই কথাগুলি না বলে পারলাম না। নতুবা পুরাতন কথা তুলবার কোন ইচ্ছা ছিল না।

লীগ দলের বন্ধু খোদাবক্স সাহেব বর্তমান বজেটকে "A catalogue of empty promises" বলে নিন্দা করেছেন। তাঁর কথায় কৌতুক বোধ করছি। ইংরেজিতে একটি কথা আছে—"A liar begins with making falsehood appear like truth and ends with making truth itself appear like falsehood".

ইতিপূর্বে মুসলিম লীগ আমলে যতগুলি বজেট আমরা পর্যালোচনা করি, দেখতে পাই, প্রতি বৎসর বাংলার নিরন্ন, দুঃখ-দুর্দ্দশাপীড়িত জনসাধারণের সামনে লীগ মন্ত্রিগণ বিরাট বিরাট—খোদাবক্স সাহেবের ভাষায়—catalogue of empty promises খাড়া করে ধরেছিলেন, লাখ লাখ টাকা বছর বছর কৃষি, স্বাস্থ্য, সেচ, শিল্প প্রভৃতি উন্নতিকর কার্য্যের জন্য লীগ মন্ত্রিগণ ভোটে বরাদ্দ করে নিয়েছেন, অথচ দেখতে পাই বছর বছরই বাংলার চাষী মজুর ও আমি জনতা স্বাস্থ্যহীন হয়ে অনাহারে ও অর্দ্ধাহারে ধ্বংসের মুখে অগ্রসর হয়েছে, যখন যুদ্ধের সময় বাজারে অগ্নিমূল্যে দ্রব্যাদি ক্রয় করে জীবিকানির্বাহ করতে অন্যান্য মধ্যবিত্ত ও মজদুর সম্প্রদায়ের সঙ্গে সরকারী কাজে বহাল মধ্যবিত্ত মজদুর সম্প্রদায়ও আর্ত্তনাদে গগন বিদীর্ণ করেছে, তখন লীগ মন্ত্রীদের পক্ষ হতে তার কী ও কতটুকু উপায় করা হয়েছিল, খোদাবক্স সাহেবের স্মরণ আছে কি? একথাও কি বন্ধুকে স্মরণ করিয়ে দিতে হবে যে তখন লীগ-মন্ত্রীদের মাহিনা বর্তমান কংগ্রেসী মন্ত্রীদের মাহিনা হতে অন্ততঃ তিনগুণ বেশী ছিল? সরকারী চাকুরীয়াদের জন্য তাঁদের শোক আমার তাই কুম্ভিরাশ্রু বলে বোধ হচ্ছে।

Empty promise • সামনে রেখে বরাবর জনস্বার্থের বিনিময়ে যাঁরা বৃটিশ সরকারের তাঁবেদারী করে ধনিক করে দিয়েছেন, তাঁদের একজন হিসেবে খোদাবক্স সাহেব যখন Congress এর বেঞ্চের বর্তমান বাজেটকে a catalogue of empty promises বলে আখ্যা দিলেন, আমার আশ্চর্য বোধ হয়নি। কেবল উল্লিখিত ইংরেজী কিংবদন্তীটি মনে পড়ে গেল।

আমি প্রথমেই বলেছি এবং মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ও তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় পরিষ্কার বলেছেন যে এবারের বাজেটের মধ্যে জাতি গঠনের যে সকল পরিকল্পনার সূচনা মাত্র রয়েছে তাই কংগ্রেসের বা কংগ্রেস দলের চরম বা শেষ কাজ নয় বা আদৌ দেশের অভাব বা দুঃখ মোচনের পক্ষে যথেষ্ট নয়। তবে এ বছর যে পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে তাকে একটি শুভ আরম্ভ বলা যায় না কি? যে দুর্যোগের মধ্য দিয়ে খণ্ডিত বাংলাকে চলতে হয়েছে ও হচ্ছে, তাতে অতি বৃহৎ পরিকল্পনা হঠাৎ গ্রহণ করা যুক্তিযুক্ত হবে কী—আমি সদস্যদের প্রশ্ন করি। বিশেষ করে জ্যোতি বসু মহাশয়কে প্রশ্ন করি—তাঁদের পার্টির তথাকথিত father-land এ গঠনমূলক পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করতে কত দিন লেগেছিল? প্রথম পাঁচ বছর পরিকল্পনা যদি ১৯২৮ সালে নেওয়া হয়ে থাকে, তবে উহা ১৯১৭ সালের কত পরে? যুদ্ধোত্তর গঠন কার্যের জন্য বাজেটে ১১ কোটী টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে। উহার স্থলে ১১০ কোটী টাকা বরাদ্দ করতে পারলে পরিষদের প্রত্যেক কংগ্রেসী সদস্য আনন্দিত হতেন সন্দেহ নেই, কিন্তু তা কি সম্ভব? বঙ্গ বিভাগের ফলে প্রদেশের অর্থনৈতিক সাম্য কিরূপ ব্যাহত হয়েছে অর্থসচিব মহাশয় সে কথার স্পষ্ট উল্লেখ করেছেন। নূতন শাসনতন্ত্রের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে সেই সাম্য পুনঃ প্রতিষ্ঠিত হলে এবং প্রদেশের অর্থনৈতিক সঙ্গতি গড়ে উঠলে আমাদের জাতি গঠনের প্রকৃত কাজ সুরু করা সম্ভব হবে—একান্তভাবে আশা করি।

আমি একথার উল্লেখ করছি এজন্য যে শুধু পরিষদ-গৃহেই নয়, জনসাধারণের ক্ষেত্রেও একাধিক রাজনৈতিক স্বার্থান্বেষী দল কংগ্রেস ও কংগ্রেসী সরকারের বিরুদ্ধে জনসাধারণকে উত্তেজিত করছে ও ভুল পথে চালাচ্ছে। এতে দেশের কোন শুভই হবে না।

মাননীয় সদস্য জ্যোতি বসু পুলিশ বাবদ অতিরিক্ত খরচের কথা উল্লেখ করেছেন। বর্তমান রাজনৈতিক পরিস্থিতিতে দেশের আইন ও শৃঙ্খলা বজায় রাখবার জন্য সরকারের হাতে একটি যথেষ্ট শক্তিশালী পুলিশ ডিপার্টমেন্ট থাকার প্রয়োজন আছে বলে আমরা সকলেই অনুভব না করে পারি না। বিশেষ করে মহাত্মার হত্যার দ্বারা দেশের মধ্যে যে reactionary চক্রান্ত সূচিত হয়েছে, তাকে দমন করতে নবপ্রতিষ্ঠিত পশ্চিম বঙ্গ সরকারকে একদিকে যেমন গণচেতনা ও গণশক্তি সৃষ্টি করে দেশের এই সর্বনাশকারী চক্রান্তকে হটাতে হবে, অন্য দিকে তেমনি পুলিশ ও ফৌজের সাহায্যে তাকে কঠোরভাবে দমন করতে হবে। কিন্তু যে পুলিশ বর্তমানে আছে তার অতীত মোটেই গৌরবের বলা যায় না। এই পুলিশই ভারতবর্ষের স্বাধীনতার সৈনিকদের উপর যে কত রকমে ও কত বেশী অত্যাচার ও নির্যাতন চালিয়েছে, তা আমরা সকলেই জানি। বিশেষতঃ যারা শ্বেতাঙ্গ প্রভুদের কেবল অনুগ্রহ লাভের জন্য অতিরিক্ত রকমের অত্যাচার করেছে তাদের কথা আমরা ভুলতে পারি না। এদের উপর জনসাধারণের বিশ্বাস আগেও ছিল না আজও গড়ে তোলা কঠিন। কাজেই পশ্চিম বঙ্গ সরকারকে জনসাধারণের বিশ্বাসভাজন পুলিশবাহিনী গড়ে তুলতে হলে সেই সকল কর্মচারীকে বরখাস্ত করে ভাল লোক নিয়ে নূতন করে জাতীয় পুলিশবাহিনী গড়ে তোলা দরকার। আর, যাতে পুলিশবাহিনীর মধ্যে কোন রকম দুর্নীতি প্রবেশ না ঢোকে সেদিকে সরকারের কড়া নজর রাখতে হবে। একথা মনে রাখতে হবে যে পুলিশ হবে একদিকে সমাজের সেবক ও অন্যদিকে অন্যায় ও দুষ্কৃতকারীদের হাত থেকে সমাজের রক্ষক। যদি এই হয়, তাহলে পুলিশের খাতে দরকারমত টাকা বাড়ালে কারো আপত্তি করবার কারণ থাকবে না।

এখন আমি বাজেটের ২।১টি খাত সম্বন্ধে কয়েকটি কথা বলতে চাই।

প্রথমেই অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে ধন্যবাদ জানাই এইজন্য যে বাজেটে জাতির আশু প্রয়োজনীয় কয়েকটি খাতের বিশেষ স্থান দেওয়া হয়েছে, যথা কৃষি, শিল্প, চিকিৎসা, জনস্বাস্থ্য ও সেচ। ইহার প্রতি খাতে—যেখানে সাধারণভাবে টাকা ধার্য করা হয়েছে যথাক্রমে ২ কোটী ৩১ লক্ষ ১২ হাজার, ৩১ লক্ষ ১৭ হাজার, কোটী ৬ লক্ষ [illegible] হাজার, ৪৮ লক্ষ ১৪ হাজার ও ৮৬ লক্ষ ৫০ হাজার, সেখানে যুদ্ধোত্তর গঠনকার্যে ধার্য হয়েছে যথাক্রমে [illegible] লক্ষ ৭৭ হাজার, ৬৭ লক্ষ ৫১ হাজার, ২ কোটী ৪৮ লক্ষ ৮৮ হাজার, ৬০ লক্ষ ১ হাজার ও ৬০ লক্ষ [illegible] হাজার।

জাতির প্রথম সমস্যা হল—সুস্থভাবে জীবনযাপন ও পরে উন্নত অবস্থায় ও আদর্শে জাতীয় জীবন গঠন ও পোষণ করা। যুদ্ধোত্তর পরিকল্পনা যা বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে নেওয়া হয়েছে তাতে প্রথমটির চেষ্টা পরিস্ফুট।

প্রথমতঃ কৃষি। কৃষি বিষয়ে বাজেটে যে কয়টি উন্নতিকর ব্যবস্থা দেখছি, তাতে একটি অভাব আমার বোধ হচ্ছে। খাদ্য-মন্ত্রী মহাশয় আগামী বৎসরের যে হিসেব দিয়েছেন, তাতে আনন্দিত হবার কিছুই নেই। বস্তুতঃ বাইরের আমদানী খাদ্যশস্যের উপর পশ্চিম বঙ্গের অনেকখানি নির্ভরতা শুধু বর্ত্তমান বৎসরে নয়, আগামী বৎসরেও বলা হয়েছে। এ ক্ষেত্রে আমার মনে হয়, প্রদেশকে স্বাবলম্বী হতে হলে অবিলম্বে "Grow more food" অভিযান গভর্ণমেণ্টের সুরু করা উচিত। বিগত যুদ্ধের সময় যেভাবে এ কাজ করা হয়, তাতে আশাপ্রদ ফললাভ হয়নি। কাজেই সরকারকে এর জন্য একটি বিভাগ সৃষ্টি করে বিশেষ খরচা বরাদ্দ করতে হবে। এই বিভাগ নিজেরাই সরকারী খরচে প্রতি টুকরো পতিত জমি আবাদ করবেন ও আবাদী জমিতে যেখানে যতটুকু খাদ্যশস্য উৎপন্ন সম্ভব তা বাধ্যতামূলকভাবে করাতে হবে।

আমাদের দেশে আর একটি সমস্যা হচ্ছে বেকার-সমস্যা। এখন যে সমস্ত যুবক গভর্ণমেণ্টে বা নানা শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানে কাজ করেন তাঁদের মধ্যে অনেককে ছাঁটাই করা হচ্ছে ও হবে শোনা যাচ্ছে। যুদ্ধ শেষে যুদ্ধকালীন শিল্পজাত জিনিষের বাজারে চাহিদা কমে যাওয়ার জন্য এই বেকার-সমস্যা, বিশেষ কোরে ছাঁটাইএর কথা আমাদের সামনে এখন উপস্থিত হয়েছে। যাতে কোনরকমভাবে আমাদের ছাঁটাই করতে না হয় এবং বেকার-সমস্যার সমাধান হয় এই ধরণের একটা economic plan বা scheme করা দরকার। গ্রামে বা মফঃস্বলে বেকার-সমস্যা সমাধানের উদ্দেশ্যে কুটীর শিল্পের জন্য কিছু টাকা বরাদ্দ না করে কুটীর শিল্পটাকে একটা plan হিসাবে যদি গ্রহণ করি এবং যেখানে যে শিল্প তৈরী হ'তে পারে সেটা একটা scheme এর মধ্যে ফেলে একটা বোর্ডের হাত দিয়ে survey করি এবং সেইভাবে যদি কার্য্য করি, তাহ'লে গ্রামে এমন অনেক যুবক আছে যারা গ্রামে ব'সেই কাজ পায় এবং এর ফলে সেখানকার বেকার-সমস্যার কিছুটা সমাধান হ'তে পারে।

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়! আপনি জানেন আমাদের দুধের কিরূপ অভাব হয়েছে। বিদেশ থেকে এখন ভাল গরু আমদানী করা খুব শক্ত। তাহ'লে কি করা যায়? আমার নিজের অভিজ্ঞতা আছে যে ১৯৩২ সালে যখন শ্রীযুক্ত সতীশ চন্দ্র দাশ গুপ্ত মহাশয় আলিপুর সেণ্ট্রাল জেলে ছিলেন তখন সেখানকার সুপারিণ্টেণ্ডেণ্ট মহাশয় জানান যে সেখানে যত গরু আছে তাতে মাত্র দৈনিক ।৭ সের দুধ হয়, কিন্তু সতীশ চন্দ্র দাশ গুপ্ত মহাশয় দুগ্ধোৎপাদনের ভার নেওয়ার পর থেকে এক মাসের মধ্যেই দেখা গেল যে সেখানে সেই গরু থেকে দিন ১৷৭ সের দুধ উৎপন্ন হচ্ছে। আমার মনে হয় বাংলা সরকার বা কৃষি বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় শ্রীযুক্ত সতীশ চন্দ্র দাশ গুপ্ত মহাশয়ের সঙ্গে যাতে যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে দুগ্ধ উৎপন্ন হয় সে সম্বন্ধে পরামর্শ কোরে একটা পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করেন তাহলে দুগ্ধ-সমস্যা দূর হওয়ার আশা করা যেতে পারে এবং সেটা এই বাংলা দেশের গরুর দ্বারাই হ'তে পারে।

আমাদের দেশে আর একটা চাষের বিশেষ দরকার সেটা মধুর চাষ। মধুর দ্বারা মানুষের স্বাস্থ্য ভাল হয়, সেই জন্য যদি গ্রামে গ্রামে মৌমাছির চাষ হয় তাহ'লে অনেক যুবক গ্রামে ব'সেই কাজ পেতে পারে।

শিক্ষার দিকে দেখছি Free Primary Education এর জন্য বাজেটে বিশেষ কোন বরাদ্দ নাই। আমার মনে হয় সেদিক থেকে কিছু করা দরকার। আমার বন্ধু রুক্কু বাবু তপশীল শ্রেণীভুক্ত ছাত্রদের জন্য টাকা চেয়েছেন; কিন্তু শিক্ষার ব্যাপারে সকলের সমান সুযোগ পাওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা দরকার। শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে সাম্প্রদায়িক বৈষম্য অর্থাৎ বর্ণ হিন্দু, মুসলমান, তপশীল শ্রেণী প্রভৃতির পার্থক্য না থাকাই বাঞ্ছনীয়। এদিকে ভাল পরিকল্পনা করা উচিত। যে পরিকল্পনার কথা বলছি তা কতদিনে বা কত বছরে কাজে পরিণত হবে জানি না, তবু একটা পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করা উচিত, না হয় ৫ বছর কি ১০ বছর লাগবে।

Industryর দিকে যে টাকা ধরা হয়েছে তা যথেষ্ট নয়। সে সম্বন্ধে আমার মনে হয় যে একটা Industrial planning করা দরকার।

স্বাস্থ্যের দিক থেকে এইটুকু বলতে পারি, সম্প্রতি অনেক tuberculosis রোগীর সম্পর্কে এসেছি। হাঁসপাতালে যেভাবে পরীক্ষা করা হয় তার ফলে অত্যন্ত advanced caseএর হাঁসপাতালে

স্থান হয় না। যে সমস্ত রোগী অত্যন্ত গরীব তাদের হাঁসপাতালে স্থান হয় না বোলে তারা বাড়ীতে থাকে এবং সেখানে থেকে তারা সেই রোগের বীজাণু চারিদিকে ছড়ায় এবং এইভাবে তাদের মৃত্যুও হয় অতি শোচনীয় অবস্থায়। সেই জন্য মনে হয় যেমন leprosy হাঁসপাতালে নাচার ward আছে সেই রকম advanced T B. caseএর জন্য যদি কোন বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা হয় যাতে T. B. রোগ হলে পর সেখানে পাঠালে গভর্ণমেন্ট তার চিকিৎসার ভার নেবেন এবং গভর্ণমেন্ট তাকে সেই জায়গায় পাঠিয়ে দেবেন যেখানে তার সেবাশুশ্রূষার ব্যবস্থা হয়, তাহ'লে ভাল হয়। অবশ্য আমি জানি বাংলা সরকার এদিকে যথেষ্ট চেষ্টা করছেন।

কৃষি-ঋণ সম্পর্কে বলতে চাই যে গভর্ণমেন্ট কিছু কিছু কৃষি-ঋণ দেন বটে কিন্তু সেই কৃষি-ঋণ যথেষ্ট নয়। অনেককে মহাজনের কাছ থেকে ঋণ গ্রহণ করতে হয় খুব বেশী সুদে। এদিক থেকে গভর্ণমেন্টের একটা পরিকল্পনা হওয়া উচিত যাতে গভর্ণমেন্ট খুব সামান্য সুদে এই কৃষি-ঋণ দিবার ব্যবস্থা করবেন।

অনেক কথা বলার আছে, কিন্তু বেশী বলার আবশ্যকতা নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Sri HEMANTA KUMAR BASU: আমার বক্তব্য শেষ হয়েছে। আমি শেষকালে মহাত্মা গান্ধীর একটি কথা বলি যে কি আদর্শে আমাদের সমাজ গঠন করা উচিত। তিনি জীবনের শেষে যে কথা বাংলা দেশে বোলে গিয়েছিলেন সেই কথা আমি এখন উল্লেখ করছি।

Only a few months ago Mahatma Gandhi observed:—"I will give you a Talisman. When you are in doubt or the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to Swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubt and your self melting away".

Shaikh MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: Mr Speaker, Sir, as is the custom I also join in the chorus and congratulate the Finance Minister on the presentation of the budget for the year 1948-49. I congratulate him because with the changes in the Ministry it is not possible for us to know who is responsible for the framing of the budget. But, Sir, I congratulate him on his courage and boldness in carrying somebody's child and claiming it as his own. That also requires courage. Whoever framed the budget, there is much for the Muslims to think and reflect and to read between the lines of the Finance Minister's statement which he made while presenting the budget before this House.

Sir, we are all accustomed to a deficit budget. It is not the first time that a deficit budget has been presented on the floor of the House. We had many occasions previously when deficit budgets were presented, and a deficit of one crore is not much But, Sir, in the past when a deficit budget was presented there were also redeeming features which reflected in improvement works, in new construction work and in providing amenities of life to the citizens of Bengal. There were grants to charitable institutions, contributions to educational institutions and establishment of new hospitals, contribution and grants to private institutions which wanted to construct hospitals and many other redeeming features which are conspicuously absent in the present budget.

Sir, I find that the whole income of the province is to be spent in meeting the expenditure on salaries of the staff who collect these revenues for us. A cursory glance at the budget, income and expenditure, will show you that the revenue receipt is 31,18 lakhs and the revenue expenditure 31,96 lakhs, and a close examination of the budget expenditure will show that practically the entire sum of this revenue receipt will be spent in meeting the salaries of the staff of the Government. There is no programme of national uplift or of raising the standard of living of ordinary men. It was really a bad

day in the history of Bengal when the gentlemen sitting opposite cast their votes in favour of partition of Bengal knowing fully well that the entire burden of administration of West Bengal will fall on the city of Calcutta. The people who raised the cry of united Bengal were howled down and dubbed as traitors. I am sure our friends do realise today that those who were howled down as traitors were also inspired with no less patriotic motives than the gentlemen opposite. Moreover, they had greater foresight and they had more experience of the administration of this province. Sir, the air-conditioning of the Writers' Buildings, which had been given priority number one, has not effected any improvement for the better amongst our Ministers. (The Hon'ble Sri BHUPATI MAJUMDAR: It has been dropped altogether.) It is surprising that whereas in the budget you find that none of the items of works which were undertaken by the previous Government have been completed by the present Government, the construction work in Writers' Buildings has been completed. Not only that, the whole system of electrification has been changed from direct current to alternating current and at a heavy cost, which perhaps the Finance Minister will tell you, though as the Hon'ble Minister says the air-conditioning of the Writers' Buildings has been dropped.

Sir, the Ministry has shuffled and reshuffled during the short period of six months, quite possibly on the question of policy, and perhaps on account of the eagerness of the members sitting opposite to get into high offices. Since the day of partition, the Muslims are anxiously awaiting a clear exposition of the policy of the Government of West Bengal towards the Muslim citizens of West Bengal. It appears that, notwithstanding the declaration of loyalty by Indian Muslims, the treatment meted out to them is differential and discriminating. No doubt the life of the Muslim minority in West Bengal is safe at present, but the systematic process of placing obstacles in their daily walk of life is making them desperate and nervous. The gradual cancellation of ration shop licenses on flimsy grounds, refusal of permits of consumer goods, expression of inability to grant them any export or import quota, are things which are increasing their anxiety and forcing them to believe that there is a well-organised scheme of making their stay in West Bengal economically impossible. Hundreds of young men employed in various professions are being taken for detention from the *bustees* every day under the Security Act, while their dependants are allowed to rot outside bereft of their daily necessities of life and with nobody to look after them. The houses belonging to Muslims are forcibly occupied and police help is not given to remove the trespassers In this connection I may draw the attention of the members to the occupation of the house which belonged to one of our ex-Ministers and which has been trespassed and in spite of his influence and best efforts he has not got it back as yet. He had been to the Prime Minister as well as other Ministers and the Commissioner of Police. This is the condition prevailing in the city which has made adverse impressions on the Muslims and they have become panicky. You will be surprised to learn that during the last few months over a lakh of Muslims have left Calcutta: near about 30,000 have gone to East Bengal and the rest to Bhopal, Hyderabad and Karachi and other places. These people are not Pakistanis. They have been here for generations, and it was with tears in their eyes that they had to leave the place of their birth. They found the doors closed to them on all sides and they could not carry on their business. If you look into the steady cancellation of food and cloth licenses of the Muslims, you will be surprised to find a large number of such licenses belong to the Muslim community. The recent enactment of repressive and discriminatory measures such as the Security Act, the Premises Eviction and Acquisition Act, etc., which are more subversive in character than those which we were accustomed to in the past, have accelerated the pace of emigration and exodus from the city. No doubt to this exodus of peace-loving Muslims no publicity has been given. We do not want to create excitement and panic. This state of depression

has been augmented by the indiscriminate arrests of Muslims when the communal organisations were declared unlawful. Many prominent Muslims including M.L.A.s and their relatives were arrested simply because they had at one time or other attended the meetings of the Muslim National Guard or of the Muslim League. Many of them were arrested because they bore similar names to those who were wanted by the police. And in this connection I may tell you that one respectable Punjabi merchant, Haji Muhammad Siddiq, was arrested because the police list contained the name of one Muhammad Siddiq Omer. He was kept in detention for a week and released when the mistake was discovered. People have been arrested though the police knew very well that there was nothing against them. They have been kept in detention just for the purpose that they may be terror-stricken. If I remember aright it was in November last that the Government of West Bengal declared that the cases of Muslims arising out of the Calcutta riots would be withdrawn except those of a very serious nature. Similar declarations were made by the Government of East Bengal. The object of that declaration was to give members of the two communities an opportunity to readjust their relations in the new situation that has arisen after the partition of the country and the dawn of independence An announcement was made that a high judicial officer was being appointed to examine and review each case individually and impartially and submit his report to the Government who will, on his recommendation, withdraw such cases as will merit it. An assurance was also given that in considering the cases no communal or other considerations will influence judgment. This exposition of Government policy was welcome. The Muslims of West Bengal have no representation in the provincial police, judiciary, administrative services or even in the Cabinet, and it was expected that those cases would be dealt with fairly and justly. A Calcutta newspaper has published some facts and figures in connection with the riot cases only three or four days ago stating the glaringly partial treatment and the manner in which action has been taken against the Muslims implicated in offences even of a minor character. In the Calcutta Police Court there were 19 cases pending against the Hindus and against 2 of them charges had been framed All those cases were withdrawn for reasons of State and public policy It included in the list the Sovabazar murder case and the Jubilee Institution murder case with eye-witnesses The cases against the Muslims number 63, and none of them has been withdrawn. In Alipore Court there were 147 cases of which 95 were against Hindus. Of those 90 were withdrawn and the remaining 5 ended in acquittal. The cases against the Muslims are continuing except some very few where the offences were of a minor character. Sir, at Sealdah there were 88 cases where 314 were implicated and at Howrah there were 248 cases. Not one of these cases has been withdrawn, though, Sir, it is said that the Government of West Bengal had withdrawn riot cases. We understand now that when the Government said that riot cases had been withdrawn they meant riot cases against the Hindus and not against the Muslims. The declaration was so cleverly worded that it gave an impression that the cases against Muslims had been withdrawn just as the neighbouring State had withdrawn cases against the Hindus in East Bengal. Sir, those cases against the Muslims are continuing except very few where the offences, as I said, are of a minor nature. Such action on the part of the Government does not tend to enhance the reputation of the Government for its impartiality and fair dealing. The past with its bitter memories should be buried. There is much to forget and forgive on both sides and it should be the duty of the Government to create confidence and friendly feeling and to help people usher in a new era of communal amity.

Compare this happening against the background of the provisions made in the budget. Whereas these things are taking place on one side, we find that no provision has been made in the budget for the education of Muslims, no provision has been made in the budget for contribution to the charitable

institutions bearing Muslim names, no provision has been made to hospitals which bear Islamic names. Sir, what has surprised me is that whereas a grant of 2 lakhs 36 thousand was provided in the last budget for the Islamia Hospital which has been doing very good work for the last twenty years, even that money has not been paid, nor any mention of it has been made in the present budget. I always understood that charity and relief do not recognise any distinction of caste, colour and creed. When we give a beggar something we give it because we feel for his suffering. We never try to find out if he is a Muslim or a Hindu. We always see that he needs it. His sufferings are so great that he merits our sympathy. But it has surprised me that the Government in making this provision of grants has discriminated against the Islamia Hospital because it bore an Islamic name. It has not provided anything for the Calcutta Muslim Orphanage; it has not provided anything for the Anjumani Mafidul Anjuman Islam because the institutions have Islamic names. It is no fault of the patients if these institutions bear Islamic names. They were not responsible for the names. And who will suffer?—the poor people who have nothing to do with the name of the institutions but with the work of the institutions. If a grant had been made, these hospitals would have continued to give service to suffering humanity irrespective of caste, colour or creed.

Sir, as I have already said, in the budget the one impression which will be very glaring and which immediately strikes you is that the whole amount derived from revenue is spent on paying the salaries of the Ministerial staff. How is this income derived? If you look at the lump sum income from different heads, you will find that we realise 5 crores of rupees from licenses issued for the sale of country spirit, foreign liquor, wine, opium, etc. Compare this income from immoral sources, Sir, with what our leader, whose death has been mourned at the first page of the Hon'ble Minister's speech, Mahatma Gandhi, always said. He was for total prohibition. He wanted that we should stop totally the sale of liquor, opium and *ganja* in the country. As a matter of fact, many Congress-governed provinces had taken up the initiative in this work and in Madras prohibition has been introduced. And what are we who are the loudest in our worship of Mahatmaji's ideals doing here today? We are living upon the income of this tainted money, money derived from the issue of licenses for the sale of liquor, opium and *ganja*. This is a thing which makes me hang my head in shame though my friends are feeling jubilant about it. It was our duty to stop totally the sale of these intoxicants. Instead of remedying this evil the Finance Minister of the Government of West Bengal has said that Saturday will be a dry day; you cannot buy liquor on Saturday. Visit the liquor shops on Friday evening and you can see the queue of people standing to buy at one time their total consumption for two days. The sale of liquor has increased and next year when we meet you will find that you have realised more than 5 crores of rupees by way of license from the sale of liquor, *ganja* and opium.

Similarly, Sir, you will find that we have not stopped race gambling. The partial remedy or initial step needed for race gambling has been applied in the case of the sale of liquor. Race gambling and races should have been stopped on Saturdays and holidays. Instead of doing that the Government has stopped the sale of liquor on Saturdays. If, Sir, the races had been banned on Saturdays and holidays you would have found that less people go to the races and spend less of their income in gambling than what they are doing today. As our revenues from these sources will suffer, Government has not thought it proper to restrict racing on Saturdays and holidays.

I now come to entertainment tax. I think you must have also frequented cinema houses and have waited for hours and hours to get a ticket standing in queues. Each of these houses is making 15 to 20 thousand every

week and what are we getting from them? Nothing compared with their income, Sir. Our rate of amusement tax is very low, and we do not get whole of it.

Sir, while on this point I will draw your attention to a great injustice which has been done to us by the Finance Minister in concealing actual figures of income. I find he is trying to show less income from these sources than would actually accrue because he wants to show at the end of the year that he has brought the province to prosperity. The deficit of one crore of rupees has been wiped off and actual receipts show he has landed us with a surplus of 2½ crores of rupees. This statement of mine is corroborated by the figures from the budget which I will give you. Entertainment tax realisation has been shown for the last six months at 30 lakhs of rupees and for the whole year the tax from entertainment is shown at 45 lakhs. Here the Finance Minister has pocketed more than Rs. 15 lakhs which he will be showing at the end of the year. Similarly, betting tax realised for the last six months from August to 31st March is shown at 70 lakhs and for the whole year it is estimated at 90 lakhs. Why not show 1 crore and 40 lakhs based on the actual accelerated rate of realisation? Here also a large sum of money is concealed.

Sir, the amount of realisation from tax on sale of motor spirit is shown as Rs. 40 lakhs while for 12 months it is shown as Rs. 60 lakhs. Who does not know that petrol rationing has been relaxed? We are getting double the quantity of petrol we used to get a few months back. We are consuming double the quantity of petrol that we used to consume before and so paying double the tax in total than before Then why has the income gone down? If we were realising Rs. 40 lakhs for six months, we should be realising four times that amount during the year because our income during the period from August to December should have been Rs. 80 lakhs; if the present system of petrol rationing would continue, we shall be getting Rs. 1 crore and 20 lakhs from the sale of motor spirit in the next year.

Sir, I come next to the Motor Vehicles Act realisations which present a diferent story. We are realising Rs 36 lakhs on behalf of Calcutta Corporation and pay the Calcutta Corporation only Rs 4,50,000. Morally and legally the entire amount belongs to the Calcutta Corporation because we are mere collecting agencies. Calcutta Corporation has become a target of public criticism and Government enquiries and has fallen on bad days, but still it is being robbed on all sides by everybody. The Corporation is being robbed by Government, by the assessees, licensees, the house owners in Calcutta and by everybody, by me and Mr. Gupta all alike. (Laughter.) The gentlemen now adorning the Government benches have, when they were sitting in opposition not many months ago, always claimed that the Corporation should be more fairly treated and should be given at least 50 per cent. of the amount which is realised by the Government from motor taxes. What a wonderful change when you cross the floor!

Sir, while on the one hand we have been denied any grant for Madrassahs, for our educational institutions, for hospitals, we find that the Finance Minister is very fond of music. Two institutions bearing the same name, Sangit Vidyalaya, have been promised substantial grants at two places while another music school has been given grant. Of course my friends will correct me but I understand these are institutions where music is taught and sung. Perhaps the grants are made so that the constant worries of the Government may be temporarily allayed by these institutions.

The only constructive proposal contained in the budget relates to completion of last year's work and provision for reconstruction of houses of *bustee*-dwellers and middle class people. Sir, I shall just take you back to appendix B of the list of original works. You will find that all th

had been provided in the last budget as well as that of 1946-47 by the previous Government. I shall take you to the first item "Installation of electric light and fans in the additional top floor of the Bengal Survey office." If you just turn to the first page of the list, appendix A of last year's budget and the explanatory notes, you will find exactly a similar item except that the amount was different from what it was. A big amount has been provided for each of the items "Reserve for minor works under different heads." If you total them up, they also become a very big figure. You will find again "Construction of a stable at Government House." I do not know how many years it will take for the construction of a stable at Government House, Darjeeling. Then there is air-conditioning of Government House. Of course in Government House there must be air-conditioning. Then comes construction of an additional storey in Writers' Buildings. These very items were found in the last year's budget and year previous. These are indeed not additional items which my friends could say are progressive works which the new Government had undertaken. Sri Hemanta Kumar Basu stated that Janab Khuda Bukhsh had said that this budget was full of empty promises. I think, Sir, Janab Khuda Bukhsh used a mild expression. It is not a budget of empty promises but it is a budget of no promises. Even if there were empty promises that would be something, at least better than no promises at all. Rupees 50 lakhs have been provided for the construction of houses for the middle class people and Rs. 30 lakhs for *bustee*-dwellers. You will find, Sir, in a recent publication of proceedings of the Calcutta Improvement Trust that the Trust has spent about Rs. 3,25,000 for the construction of 100 rooms on the land which belonged to the Calcutta Improvement Trust. A hundred rooms meant accommodation for 50 families at a cost of over Rs. 3 lakhs. Therefore Rs. 50 lakhs will give sufficient accommodation for 500 families. Is that sufficient and is that enough? Similar provision had been made during the last three years under different heads and God knows what will happen to this provision also. I challenge the Government that this money will not be spent. Next year when we meet for the budget discussion Government will come and say: "We had made this scheme. We have gone on with the scheme; we have made preparation, but the matter is pending with the Land Acquisition Collector. We have not been able to get the land and (if the land was available) we have not been able to get the materials, but the money is there and we are anxious that this construction should be made". This 80 lakhs will remain as it is and will be merged in the closing balance of the year.

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit but was allowed to continue.)

Sir, the people of Calcutta who contribute 80 per cent. of the revenue have a right to know what has been done for them. There are no schemes for the construction of hostels for the students. There is acute scarcity of accommodation in the city, and students come from the neighbouring places but they find no accommodation. The charges of mess and rooms are so high that they find it difficult to pay. The Government should have made some arrangement for these students and for the construction of hostels for them.

Lastly I would just make an appeal to my friends sitting opposite We are in a microscopic minority and can make no effective changes. I would appeal to them just to settle up the differences amongst themselves. We are really worried over the changes in the Ministry every now and then. We are not anxious to be Ministers ourselves. Let us have a stable Ministry, so that we may know where we stand and we may know what is the policy of Government. Whoever comes makes his own constructon and states his own policy· you never know where you stand. So let there be a stable Ministry and let the Muslims know how they are going to be treated ed [illegible]rovince, socially, economically and culturally.
ing in que[illegible]

Sri NISHAPATI MAJHI : মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়, অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের বাজেট বক্তৃতার সর্বপ্রথমেই যদি আমরা শুনতে পেতাম যে তিনি পাইকারী জরিমানার টাকা—যা নাকি ১৯৪২ সনে আদায় হয়েছিল, এবং [illegible] ব্যক্তিদের নিকট হতে—তাদের অনেকের ক্ষেত খামার ঘর বাড়ী ধ্বংস করা হয়েছিল তার ক্ষতিপূরণ স্বরূপ—সমস্ত টাকা তিনি ফিরিয়ে দেবার ব্যবস্থা করেছেন, তাহ'লে অবশ্যই তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ দিতাম। প্রায় ১ লক্ষ ২২ হাজার টাকা, যা নাকি বিচারের প্রহসন করে, দেশবাসীদের উৎপীড়ন ও উদ্‌বাস্তু করে আদায় করা হয়েছিল ১৯৪২ সালে, সেটা এই ১৯৪৮-৪৯ সালের বাজেটে ফেরৎ দেবার জন্য খরচের বরাদ্দের খাতের তালিকাভুক্ত যে হয় নাই এটা বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয়। এই রকম আর একটা দুঃখের বিষয়—এতদিন ধরে আমরা সবাই মিলে যে চিৎকার করে এসেছি হরিজনদের উন্নতি করতে হবে, আমরা আশা করেছিলাম সেই হরিজনদের তাড়ি ও পচাই না খাইয়ে আবগারীর আয় বৃদ্ধির রাস্তাটা বন্ধ হবে, আমাদের দেশের স্বাধীন গভর্ণমেন্টের নতুন বাজেটে কিন্তু পূর্বে যেখানে পচাই ও তাড়ির বাবদ আয় ছিল ৩০ লক্ষ টাকা, সেটার এবারকার বাজেটে আয় ধরা হয়েছে ৪৫ লক্ষ টাকা। বাজেটে সর্বসমেত আয়ের খাতে দেখা যায় ৩১ কোটি ১৮ লক্ষ ৫২ হাজার টাকা তার মধ্যে ৫ কোটী ৮৮ লক্ষ ২০ হাজার টাকা অর্থাৎ প্রায় ৬ কোটী টাকা আবগারীর খাতের আয়! এটা কংগ্রেস নীতির সম্পূর্ণ বিরোধী। কংগ্রেস মন্ত্রী-সভার আমলে মাদক দ্রব্য বর্জনের আভাস অর্থসচিব মহাশয় না দেওয়ায় এই পরিষদ বিশেষ চিন্তিত হয়ে পড়েছে।

এখন শিক্ষার কথা বলি। শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে হরিজন বা সজ্জন ইত্যাদি আখ্যার কথা তোলা নিশ্চয়ই অন্যায়। এটা আমরা মর্ম্মে মর্ম্মে অনুভব করি, এবং এরূপ কোন ব্যাখ্যা না তোলার প্রস্তাব আমরা সর্বান্তঃকরণে সমর্থন করি। শিক্ষার ক্ষেত্রে কোনরকম গণ্ডী রাখা উচিত নয়। কিন্তু আজ আমরা দেখছি কি? যারা উচ্চ শিক্ষায় সুশিক্ষিত সেই এংলো-ইণ্ডিয়ান ও য়ুরোপীয়ানদের বাবদ বহু লক্ষ টাকা শিক্ষার জন্য বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। এটা কি আমাদের পক্ষে লজ্জার বিষয় নয়? অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে এখানে দেখছি না; আমি আশা করেছিলাম তিনি আমাদের কথাগুলি শুনবেন, কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় তিনি উপর তলায় উঠে গিয়েছেন। তিনি যে তপশীলীদের জন্য মাত্র ৬ লক্ষ টাকা শিক্ষার ব্যয় ধার্য্য করেছেন এজন্য তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ দিতে অক্ষমতা জানাচ্ছি। এখানে আর একটা বিষয়ের উল্লেখ না করে পারছিনে, অর্থসচিব মহাশয় রবীন্দ্রনাথের শ্রীনিকেতনে ৫০ হাজার টাকা এবং শান্তিনিকেতন বিশ্বভারতীকে ৪০ হাজার টাকা ও ১৫ হাজার টাকা রবীন্দ্রনাথের স্মৃতির জন্য প্রদান করেছেন, কিন্তু রবীন্দ্রনাথের বাংলা ভাষা—যে ভাষাতে তিনি বিশ্ব জয় করেছেন—সেই বাংলা ভাষাতে অর্থসচিব মহোদয় আমাদের তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতা শোনান নাই এবং বাংলা যাতে রাষ্ট্র-ভাষা হয় সেদিক দিয়েও এখন পর্য্যন্ত কোনরূপ দৃঢ়তা দেখছি না। [illegible] অর্থসাহায্য করে যেমন আমাদের আনন্দিত করেছেন, মধুসূদন, হেমচন্দ্র ও রবীন্দ্রনাথের ভাষাকে রাষ্ট্র-ভাষায় পরিণত করলে আমরা অধিকতর আনন্দিত হতাম। স্বাধীন দেশকে গড়ে তোলার জন্য অন্যান্য দেশ, অন্যান্য স্বাধীন জাতি যেমন নিজের ভাষাকে ভিত্তি করে তাদর অর্থনীতি, সমাজনীতি, ধর্ম্ম, শিক্ষা ও বাণিজ্য, সব কিছু গড়ে তোলে, আমাদের এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল সেদিক থেকে যেন দূরে সরে রয়েছেন।

দু' কোটী কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা গরীব সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন বৃদ্ধির জন্য নাকি পূর্বে স্থির হয়েছিল, কিন্তু সেটা কমে এখন এক কোটীতে এসে দাঁড়িয়েছে। কিন্তু আমি মনে করি রাষ্ট্রের কর্ম্মী, যাঁদের দেশকে উন্নতির পথে গড়ে তোলার জন্য কাজে নিযুক্ত থাকতে হবে, তাঁদের অভাব মোচন করে না দেওয়ার দরুণ যদি তাঁরা সর্বশক্তি দেশকে গড়ে তোলার দিকে প্রয়োগ না করতে পারেন, তাহ'লে সত্যই আমাদের দেশ উন্নতির পথে অগ্রসর হতে পারবে না। সুতরাং তাঁদের আর এক কোটী টাকা বেতন বৃদ্ধি ক'রে যাতে দেশের বহু কোটী টাকা আয় হ'তে পারে সেদিকে আমাদের সকলেরই দৃষ্টি দেয়া উচিত। অর্থসচিব মহাশয় কেন যে এ বিষয়টার এই দিকটা ভাল ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই বুঝে উঠতে পারছিনে।

আমি কয়েকদিন আগে মাননীয় সিভিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগের মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের কাছে গিয়েছিলাম। তাঁকে বলেছি—ঢেঁকিছাঁটা চাল কেন কলকাতার বাজারে আমদানী হয় না। লীগ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলের আমলে অনেক চিৎকার করেছিলাম এ নিয়ে, কিন্তু তাঁরা কাণ দেননি। আশা করি কংগ্রেস মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল আমাদের কথা শুনবেন। তাছাড়া এটাও বিবেচনার বিষয় যে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের সবচেয়ে বড় গৃহ শিল্প বলতে গেলে ঐ ঢেঁকি। আমি জানি শুধু ঢেঁকিছাঁটা চালের দ্বারা আজ দেশের সব চাহিদা মিটতে পারে না, কলকাতার অভাব তাতে দূর হতে পারে না, কিন্তু কিছুটা পারে। কলের পাশাপাশি ঢেঁকিরও দরকার

আছে। সাগরেরও যেমন প্রয়োজন আছে, নদী নালারও তেমনি প্রয়োজন রয়েছে। চালের কল প্রভূত পরিমাণে হওয়ার ফলে পল্লীর চাষীদের আজ পয়ুর খাবারের টান পড়েছে, অসহায় মেয়েদের হাতে কাজ নেই; তাছাড়া কলকাতার রেশন এলাকার রাইস মিলগুলির খুদ, কাঁকরযুক্ত চাল খেতে বাধ্য হয়ে কলকাতা-বাসীরা নানা রোগে ভুগছে, তথাপি এখানে ঢেঁকিছাটা চালের আমদানীর দিকে মন্ত্রীরা নজর দিচ্ছেন না।

তারপরে আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি, উন্নয়নের কাজে প্রায় ৬½ কোটী টাকা ব্যয় ধরা হয়েছে। আমাদের বীরভূম জেলার ছোট ছোট বাঁধ, খাল প্রভৃতি কাটানর বাবদ কিছু কিছু টাকা ধরা হয়েছে। কিন্তু আমি একথা স্পষ্ট করেই জানিয়ে দিচ্ছি মশানজোর কেনেল না কাটলে বীরভূমের খাল কেটে বিশেষ কিছু হবে না। আমার সন্দেহ হয়, পূর্ব্ব পূর্ব্ব বারের মতন এবারেও উন্নয়ন বাজেট বাবদ ধরা ৬½ কোটী টাকার মধ্য হতে সামান্য, সামান্য, ছোট ছোট পরিকল্পনা বাবদ কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা মাত্র ব্যয় হবে, আর বেশীর ভাগ টাকাই পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়নের অভাবে কাজে লাগান হবে না। প্রশ্ন উপস্থিত হয়েছে যে গ্রামে গ্রামে, থানায় থানায়, য়ুনিয়নে য়ুনিয়নে স্থাপন হচ্ছে দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয়। এ বিষয়ে চৌধুরী মহাশয় একটা ভাল পরিকল্পনা আমাদের সাম্নে নিয়ে এসেছেন। কিন্তু আমি আমার নিজের অভিজ্ঞতা থেকে বলছি—দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয়ে টাকা বরাদ্দ করলেই শুধু হবে না—আমি কালনায় গিয়েছি—সেখানেই শুনতে পেয়েছি ডাক্তার বাবুর পকেট ভর্ত্তী হচ্চে। এইরূপ দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয়ের উপর বহু অনুযোগ শুনতে পাওয়া যায়। এইজন্য এ বিষয়ে একটা সুষ্ঠু পরিকল্পনা উপস্থিত করবার জন্য সচিব মহাশয়কে বলছি—যাতে গ্রামের লোক নিজের কাজ বলে এই কাজটাকে গ্রহণ করতে পারে, এ সম্বন্ধে আমার প্রস্তাব এই যে এই সমস্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান যাতে গ্রামের লোক দ্বারা পরিচালিত হয় এবং তাদের পিছন থেকে সরকার শক্তিদান করেন, এইভাবে যেন এই সব organisation করা হয়। এখানে আমি একটা দৃষ্টান্ত দিচ্ছি—যেমন বীরভূমে নলকূপ তৈরী করে সাফল্যলাভ করা যায় নাই সেখানে বিহারের মতন বড় বড় জলাধার নির্ম্মাণ করা উচিত। বাংলার প্রত্যেক থানায় দু' চারটে করে নলকূপ বা টিউব-ওয়েল বসবে—পরিষদে বসে শুনতে বেশ ভাল লাগে। কিন্তু গ্রামে গেলে দেখি—টিউব-ওয়েল খারাপ হয়ে সব অব্যবহার্য্য হয়ে পড়ে আছে; মেরামত করবার লোক পাওয়া যায় না। সেই জন্য আমার প্রস্তাব এই যে এমনভাবে জলাশয় গ্রামে গ্রামে করা হোক যাতে প্রকৃতই জলাভাব দূর হবে। এবং যেখানে সম্ভবপর সেখানে নলকূপ স্থাপন করা হবে।

সর্ব্বশেষে আমি আর একটা কথা বলতে চাই—আজ জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের নীতি স্থির হয়েছে। অধিক সংখ্যক কৃষক মজুর যে দাবী জানাচ্ছে সে কথা কিন্তু শুনছি না। সেদিকে গভর্ণমেন্ট দৃঢ়ভাবে কিছু করতে পারছেন না। কিন্তু আগামী শাসনতন্ত্রে ২ কোটী ১৮ লক্ষ লোকের মধ্য থেকে প্রকৃত প্রতিনিধিরা যদি এখানে আসে তখন আর উপযুক্ত মূল্য দিয়ে জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের কৈফিয়ৎ দেয়া চলবে না। আমি আশা করি, যদি কংগ্রেস-নির্দ্ধারিত নীতি বর্ণে বর্ণে পালন করে এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল মাদক দ্রব্য নিবারণ করেন, দরিদ্র মুসলমান বালক ও তপশীলীদের উপযুক্ত শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করেন এবং সুশিক্ষিত এংলো-ইণ্ডিয়ান বালকদের জন্য বিশেষ ব্যবস্থার স্থলে প্রকৃত অশিক্ষিত যারা তাদের উন্নতির ও শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করেন, তাহ'লে তাঁরা বাংলা দেশের প্রকৃত কল্যাণ করতে পারবেন। এবং এদিকে বিশেষ রকম আলোচনা করে মাননীয় সচিব মহাশয় দেশ সেবার কার্য্যে উৎস দান করুন, এই আমার একান্ত অনুরোধ।

Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people have been eagerly awaiting for the budget and anxiously expecting to find something which may lead to a solution of the problems that face the country. So long deprived of all the joys of life they want to breathe the air of freedom, as the Finance Minister has justly stated to bring into his life the bracing air of peace, prosperity and happiness. But the budget as presented has made us thinking as to how far this dream has been realised.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has tried to tackle this problem but he seems to be handicapped in his efforts owing to the difficulties created by the division of the province. This factor has led him to cry halt and the budget of the new province of West Bengal seems to refrain from making a bold attempt to the solution of the problem. It may be said to be one of adjustment and compromise. It savours of the old ideas with only a lining of the new.

The main problems that face this land of ours are food, health and clothing. People want sufficient food; they want to be free from all physical ailments; they want sufficient clothings. Above all they want security for their life and property. Unfortunately for this province the last one has become rare since 1946. These things have been touched only in their fringe, and lump grants have been provided in some cases. There is no plan, no scheme on the basis of which we can proceed. We do not know on what data these sums have been allotted. The danger is that for preparation of the scheme or plan a good part of the year will be wasted and we will find that the sums allotted are lying there unspent. This has been our experience in the past and it is only natural that we have the same misgivings now.

Coming to the main items in the budget, the first is Education. In this the Finance Minister has tried to steer a middle course without adopting a revolutionary programme. A sum of 11 lakhs has been provided for basic education. So far so good. I do not know how the sum will be spent in the absence of trained teachers and a definite scheme. It will be better if a particular area is selected and an experiment on this line is made. What is necessary is compulsory Primary Education and for this the Ministry ought to make a drive.

Next is Medical and Public Health. A good beginning has been made and as Sreejut Annada Prosad Choudhury has already told us that there can be more progress on this line if we appeal to our charitably dsiposed countrymen, I have every hope that funds will be forthcoming to supplement the efforts of the Government. When we have got the report of the Bhore Committee before us, there is a well-thought-out scheme which can be given effect to immediately. Rural water-supply is being attended to but the urban area should not be neglected. Most of them cannot supply good drinking water adequately for want of materials and for lack of funds to purchase them. When they ask for loans their claims are being deferred on the ground of inadequate income. Unless the Government makes a grant outright they cannot hope to implement any scheme of improvement by themselves.

Agriculture has also received some share. This includes 6½ lakhs for the distribution of iron and steel for agricultural implements, 3 lakhs for sugarcane cuttings, 4 lakhs for small irrigation projects, compost and seed stores. These all sound very well. But from our past experience we find that steel and iron never reach the agriculturists in spite of requisition by M.L.A.s, Controllers and District Magistrates.

In the industrial head silk has great possibilities. No doubt a sum of 8 lakhs has been provided but that is a mere drop in the ocean. If Kashmir and Mysore can make it profitable, why cannot Bengal? If we want to make a substantial improvement, we should begin from the very beginning. It is a mistaken idea to start from the filature. We must try to improve the breed of cocoons and production of silk and instead of giving them aid we must take over control of the whole thing just as others are doing.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, there are other proposals such as housing of middle classes, Kanchrapara development, electrification, transport, etc. But when we look at all these we find that all these are meant for Calcutta and the neighbouring areas as if West Bengal is limited to Calcutta only and what is left is going to be spent for areas on the western side of Bhagirathi. The eastern side, viz., Nadia and Murshidabad, have been totally neglected. For them there is no solace, only a few crumbs here and there. Besides this, the area in North Bengal has also

been totally ignored. There is no electrification; there are no development projects. These border areas of West Bengal are not being properly looked after. They are practically isolated from each other and during the rains 8 months in the year they are cut off from the civilised world. There is no food, no medicine and the people of these areas are deprived of all facilities for procuring their daily necessities for want of communicating roads. The *sine qua non* of independence is a sense of security of life and property and proper and sufficient food, but for lack of communications you cannot come to the market and cannot get medical help. If there be any trouble, the Centre remains in the dark till news infiltrates with difficulty. The territories of Malda and Dinajpur are separated from each other and there is no link between Murshidabad and Malda or Dinajpur. Schemes should at once be prepared and work taken in hand for connecting these districts or establishing means of communications with the centre. In the road development programme, instead of laying their hands here and there, roads must be developed so that there may be quick movements from the centre to the border and the different units may be linked up. Then and then only the people may feel secure and know that help will reach them in time of need. The problem of supplying fish not only for Calcutta but also for mufassal areas should be paid attention to. There are large tracts of water as well as tanks where fish culture can be undertaken with profit and the problem of supply to Calcutta may be solved. For all these we may easily utilise the services of the surplus permanent staff as well as the temporary ones. These are trained hands and their services should be placed in the rural areas for village uplift works. For this a comprehensive scheme is absolutely necessary.

Some savings may also be made on the expenditure side. The Commissioners of Divisions hold sinecure offices and times without number members asked for the abolition of these posts. But the steel frame cannot be shaken and they remain where they were. These post offices of Government exist only for delaying prompt execution of works and I ask the Hon'ble Minister to be relieved of this burden.

The abolition of all controls which Mahatmaji so vehemently advocated should be taken up in right earnest and this will wipe out all deficits.

The whole budget has a promising outlook but they seem to have made a halt. Funds may be allotted under different heads, but it is very difficult to spend them in the absence of a definite plan or on inadequate data. I request the Ministry not to waste money here and there but proceed on a planned basis and I doubt not that ere long their efforts to make this land rich in health and wealth will be crowned with success.

Janab A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his good fortune to be able to introduce the first budget of autonomous Bengal under the Government of India Act of 1935 and also the first budget of divided Bengal of free India. Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister, both in the introductory and also in the concluding stage of his statement, has invoked the blessings of Mahatmaji and I think, Sir, he has rightly done so, because Mahatmaji is our never-failing friend, philosopher and guide. But, Sir, simply invoking his blessings will not help us unless we are prepared to follow his ideals sincerely. Sir, Mahatmaji throughout his life fought against intoxication and also in the new constitution of the All-India Congress we find that one must be a teetotaller to become eligible to be a panchayat in a Primary Congress Committee. So the country can legitimately expect that the first thing the Government should do is to abolish all intoxication from the country; but to our utter disappointment we find that the Government so far has practically done nothing. During Dr. Ghosh's Ministry, Saturday was declared a "Dry day." Sir, for all practical purposes, this one "Dry day" in a week means nothing. People will either buy drinks on a previous day or in the black

market. If the Government are serious about it, they should close down all liquor shops and make drinking a penal offence. Sir, a question might arise where to find out the money lost on Excise revenue, but I am sure, Sir, that knowing this difficulty Congress has provided this qualification in their constitution. Sir, nobody would believe that it is the intention of the Congress that those who will be candidates for a Congress Panchayet will not drink. Sir, it is common knowledge that a large number of our poverty-stricken people visit the Race Course and completely ruin themselves. The country expected that the Government will take early steps to declare racing illegal; but again, Sir, to our disappointment we find that the Government is not doing anything in this matter. Our honourable friend Sri Annada Prosad Choudhury very rightly remarked in his speech that the least the Government should do is to increase the totalisator tax in such a proportion that it may be difficult for the common man to go to the Race Course. I am sure, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister is aware that the Madras Government is going to ban the publication of all information regarding racing and also sale of race tips, etc., and have made them a penal offence. We expect, Sir, that till Government can totally stop racing, they should at least impose such restrictions as would create difficulties for the common man to visit the Race Course and let the races remain, for the time being, a pleasure sport for the prodigal sons of rich men of our country.

Sir, we are glad to find increased provisions in various nation-building departments. But, Sir, unless the system and method of expenditure are changed, I am afraid, Sir, in spite of all the good intentions of the Ministry, we shall not achieve the desired results. Sir, we have achieved independence but there is practically no change in the method of administration from the bureaucratic regime. Sir, in the past we have seen too much of inter-departmental jealousies and there was practically no co-operation between one department and another, although that was an essential condition for the all-round improvement of the province. Sir, we do not know the attitude of the present Government towards the Co-operative Movement of the province. If it is the intention of the Government that the movement should flourish, then there should be closer co-operation of the Co-operative Department with the Agriculture and Industries Departments. The Agriculture and Industries Departments should function more or less as advisory departments. They should only give technical advice, deal with research work and also supervise the actual execution of the schemes, but the actual execution of the scheme should be left to the Co-operative Department. Sir, if we want to eliminate the individual ownership and exploitation of the common man, we must develop the Co-operative Movement in the country. Large sums of money have been provided in the budget under the head "Civil Works" and "Construction of Irrigation, Navigation and Drainage Works"; but unless the tendency of the contractors of war-time profit is checked, I am afraid, the bulk of this money will go to the contractors' pockets. Sir, increased provision under the head "Public Health" and "Medical" is a welcome provision. There is misgiving in the minds of Mussalmans of West Bengal that the Government might stop the Madrassah Education from West Bengal. I think, Sir, Government should do well to remove the doubts from the minds of the Mussalmans of West Bengal. Sir, another thing I would urge on the Ministry is to give us an assurance that the money provided for the promotion of education amongst educationally backward classes should not be spent for a particular section of a community. It should be spent for all those who are educationally backward. Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his statement said, that Government of a country is not a profit-making institution like a commercial enterprise in which increased emoluments can be claimed on the basis of the profits made. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has further stated that it will be recognised that salaries of Government employees must bear a certain relation to the income and the standard of living of the vast masses from whose toil the coffers of the State have to be filled. I am sure, Sir, this statement of the Hon'ble

Finance Minister is not intended for the poorly-paid officers only. May I ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister through you, Sir, in consistence with his statement, whether he can justify the high salaries of the administrative Secretaries and also the heads of the Departments!

Sir, before I sit down, I can assure the Government through you, Sir, that we on this side of the House, will co-operate with the Government in all their attempts to make West Bengal a happy and prosperous province, where there will be no exploitation of the common man and where all sections and classes of people will be able to live peacefully.

Sri BEPIN BEHARI GANGULI : মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, বিগত ১৪ই আগষ্ট ১৯৪৭ সাল গভীর রাত্রে ১২-১ মিনিটের সময় নব ভারতের জন্ম হইল। পণ্ডিত জহর লাল নেহরু ঐ সময়ে ভারতের স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা করিলেন। সংগ্রাম বহুদিন হইতে চলিয়া আসিতেছিল। রাজনৈতিক কারণে কতকটা জয়ী হইলেও আমরা অর্থনৈতিক, সমাজনৈতিক ও কৃষ্টিগত স্বাধীনতা এখনও লাভ করিতে পারি নাই। সহীদ হইয়াছেন অনেকেই, ত্যাগস্বীকারও করিয়াছেন অনেকেই, কিন্তু সেদিন যে মহৎ শ্রেষ্ঠ যোদ্ধা মহাত্মা গান্ধী জীবন বলি দিলেন, তাঁকে আমরা কখনও ভুলিব না। তিনি যে গঠনমূলক কাজের হদীশ দিয়ে গেছেন তাহা যেন আমরা কায়মনোবাক্যে পালন করি।

বঙ্গ বিভাগের প্রতিক্রিয়া এবং পশ্চিম বঙ্গের অর্থনৈতিক স্বরূপ অর্থসচিব শ্রীযুক্ত নলিনী রঞ্জন সরকার সুস্পষ্টভাবে বিবৃত করিয়াছেন, অর্থনৈতিক সমস্যাগুলির যে রূপান্তর ঘটিতে পারে তাহাও আলোচনা করিয়াছেন। পশ্চিম বঙ্গের আগামী অর্থনৈতিক বৎসরে আয় ব্যয়ের হিসাব দেখিয়া মনে হয় কৃষি ও শিল্প প্রভৃতি জনকল্যাণমূলক দফার ব্যয় কিঞ্চিৎ বৃদ্ধি হইবে। আমরা দেখিতে চাই কতদূর কাজ হয়। বিভিন্ন দিকে শিক্ষা, কৃষি, সেচ, চিকিৎসা, জনস্বাস্থ্য, মৎস্য চাষ, শিল্প উন্নয়ন প্রভৃতি বিভিন্ন বিষয়ের নিমিত্ত প্রত্যেক খাতে খরচের ফিরিস্তি দেওয়া হইয়াছে। বিহার ও দামোদর উপত্যকা করপোরেশনের সহযোগে আগামী বৎসরে উক্ত ধরণের রাসায়নিক শিল্প পরিকল্পনার জন্য ৫ লক্ষ টাকা ধার্য্য করা হইয়াছে। সেইভাবে ময়ূর পরিকল্পনা ও প্রেসিডেন্সি ডিভিশনের নদীগুলির উন্নতিসাধন করিতে যেন বিলম্ব না হয়। শিক্ষা বিভাগের অগ্রগতির জন্য কলিকাতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়কে ৬ লক্ষ টাকার উপর হবে ব্যয় বরাদ্দ বাড়াইয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছে। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের মোট বরাদ্দ ১৪ লক্ষ ৫০ হাজার টাকা ধার্য্য করা হইয়াছে। এই শিক্ষা সম্পর্কে গত বৎসর এমন দিন যে কি দুরবস্থায় পর্য্যবসিত হইতে চলিয়াছিল তাহার পুনরুল্লেখ নিষ্প্রয়োজন। সাম্প্রদায়িক বাটোয়ারা আমাদিগকে অধঃপতিত করিবার চেষ্টার ব্যর্থতা আমাদের জ্ঞান, প্রাণ ও শিক্ষাকে উজ্জ্বল, মুক্ত ও মহিমাময় করিয়া তুলিবে বলিয়া মনে হয়। স্থানীয় স্বায়ত্তশাসন ও জনস্বাস্থ্যের উন্নতির দিকে পূর্ব্বে দৃষ্টি দেওয়া হয় নাই। আমাদের ২৪-পরগণা জেলার নগরগুলির জলসরবরাহের ব্যবস্থা আজ নিস্মার্হ। বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমন্ডলী নগরগুলির স্বায়ত্তশাসনের (মিউনিসিপ্যালিটির) কুপ্রথা দূর করিবার দিকে বিশেষ নজর দিবেন কি? প্রধান মন্ত্রীর সহিত এ বিষয়ে আমার কিছু কিছু আলোচনা হইয়াছে।

পশ্চিম বাংলার জনসংখ্যার অনুপাতে শতকরা ২২ জন নগরবাসী। পূর্ব্ববাংলায় কেবলমাত্র শতকরা ৪ জন সহরে বাস করে। পূর্ব্ববাংলা হইতে যাঁহারা এদেশে আসিয়া জনসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি করিয়াছেন, তাঁহাদের অধিকাংশ পশ্চিম বাংলার সহরগুলিতে ভিড় করিয়াছেন। সুতরাং প্রায় সকল সহরের লোকের খাদ্য সরবরাহ, আবাস, শিক্ষা, জনস্বাস্থ্য, সকল দিকে অপ্রাচুর্য্য দেখা দিয়াছে। "আজ আছে কাল নেই" এইরূপ লোকগুলি বেকার অবস্থায় দিশেহারা হইয়াছে।

অর্থসচিব তাঁহার বাজেট বক্তৃতায় ১৯৪৫-৪৬, ১৯৪৬-৪৭ এবং ১৯৪৭-৪৮ সালের ব্যয়ের তুলনামূলক আলোচনা করিয়াছেন, কিন্তু আয়ের কোন তুলনামূলক আলোচনা করেন নাই। অর্থসচিব তাঁহার বিবৃতিতে প্রধান প্রধান খাতে আয়ের একটা মোটামুটি হিসাব দিয়াছেন। ১৯৪৭-৪৮ সালে যুক্ত বাংলার বাজেটে আবগারী বিভাগে ৫ কোটী ৮৮ লক্ষ ৬১ হাজার টাকা আয় হইবে বলিয়া বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছিল। আমাদের জাতীয় সরকারের উচিত যে আবগারী বিভাগ একেবারে তুলে দেওয়া। মহাত্মা গান্ধী এই সম্পর্কে যে সমস্ত ভাষণ দিয়াছেন, তিনি আমাদের যে শিক্ষা দিয়াছেন, সেদিকে আমাদের নজর দেওয়া উচিত ছিল। এ বৎসরে যুক্ত বাংলার বাজেটে আয়কর বাবদ ৭ কোটী ৪৯ লক্ষ ৫০ হাজার টাকা আয় হইবে বলিয়া বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছিল। অন্যান্য বাবদে আয়ের কথাও বলিয়াছেন; তিনি বিক্রয়-কর এবং অন্যান্য ঐ রকমের

কর হইতে আগামী বৎসর ৫ কোটী টাকা আয় হইবে বলিয়া অনুমান করিয়াছেন। আমরা কলিকাতা সহরে অনেক জায়গায় দেখতে পাই যে দোকানদার সমিতি হয়েছে। তাহারা চায় না বিক্রয়-কর দিতে, সেদিকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিশেষ নজর দেওয়া উচিত ছিল।

অখণ্ড বাংলার রাজস্ব খাতের সহিত বর্ত্তমান পশ্চিম বাংলার রাজস্ব খাতের আয়ের পরিমাণ তুলনা করিয়াছেন। ব্যয়ের দিক হইতে পশ্চিম বাংলার আয়তনের অনুপাতে ব্যয় যে কমে নাই তাহাও স্বীকার করিয়াছেন। মোটামুটিভাবে প্রায় ৩২ কোটী টাকা ব্যয় হইবে। উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনার জন্য ৬ কোটী ৫৭ লক্ষ ৪৩ হাজার টাকা কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট দিবেন; সুতরাং সাধারণ রাজস্ব খাতে মোটামুটিভাবে ২৫ কোটী ৩৯ লক্ষ ২ হাজার টাকা ব্যয় হইবে। ইহার মধ্যে অল্প বেতনের সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের জন্য ১ কোটী টাকা ব্যয় হইবে। কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন সম্পর্কে পশ্চিম বঙ্গে পূর্ববঙ্গ হইতে বহু সংখ্যক সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীর আগমনে যে ব্যবস্থা করিতে হইয়াছে তাহার ব্যয় বাড়িয়াছে। সুতরাং বিভক্ত হইলেও কলিকাতা ও উহার উপকণ্ঠে শাসন পরিচালনা ও অন্যান্য ব্যয় কিছু বাড়িয়াছে। এই সম্পর্কে কলিকাতা পুলিশ বিভাগের ব্যয় রেশন বিভাগের ব্যয়, চিকিৎসা ও শিক্ষা সংক্রান্ত এবং অন্যান্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের ব্যয় উল্লেখযোগ্য। আয়ের তুলনায় ব্যয় না কমিবার কারণ উৎপাদন প্রভৃতি জনকল্যাণমূলক দফার ব্যয় বরাদ্দ বৃদ্ধি হইয়াছে। পশ্চিম বাংলা আয়তনের তুলনায় সরকারী কর্ম্মচারী বর্ত্তমানে অত্যন্ত বৃদ্ধিপ্রাপ্ত হইয়াছে। প্রয়োজনের অতিরিক্ত কর্ম্মচারী রাখিয়া ব্যয় বৃদ্ধি করা মোটেই যুক্তিযুক্ত নহে। সরকারী ব্যয় হ্রাস না হওয়ার যে সকল কারণ অর্থসচিব দেখাইয়াছেন তাহার ভিতর রেশন ব্যবস্থা চালু রাখা। আমার মনে হয় তাহার প্রয়োজনীয়তা শেষ হইয়াছে। কেন না পারিপার্শ্বিক অবস্থায় সপ্তাহে মাত্র তিন দিন চলিবার উপযোগী চাউল পাওয়া যায়। প্রয়োজন অনুপাতে কর্ম্মচারী রাখিলে এবং রেশন ব্যবস্থা তুলিয়া দিলে নূতন সমস্যার উদ্ভব হইতে পারে, তবে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন তাহা যদি যথার্থভাবে কার্য্যকরী করা যায় তাহা হইলে উদ্বৃত্ত লোকের কর্ম্মসংস্থান হইতে পারে। জাতীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রবর্ত্তনের পূর্ব্বে যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আমাদের দেশে ছিল তাহার আমলাতান্ত্রিক প্রভাব অর্থাৎ ঘুষ বা টাকা চুরী প্রমুখ দোষ হইতে মুক্ত হইতে পারিবে। উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা পরিচালনের ব্যবস্থা সম্ভব হইবে। অতিরিক্ত ব্যয় হ্রাস করা সেই কারণে সম্ভব হয় নাই। কিন্তু উক্ত কারণ দুইটি দূর হইলেই বাজেট বরাদ্দের মধ্যে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের আর্থিক ও অন্য সমস্যা ঘুচিয়া যাইবে। পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী অর্থনৈতিক ব্যবস্থা, সামাজিক ও শিক্ষামূলক ব্যবস্থা যথাযথভাবে পরিচালিত হইলে সমাজের দুরবস্থা ঘুচিবে এবং দেশকে আমরা উন্নতির পথে লইয়া যাইতে পারিব।

ভারতে অর্জ্জিত স্বাধীনতা রক্ষা করিতে হইলে উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধির দিকে আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি না হইলে বহিঃপ্রদেশ বা বিভিন্ন দেশ হইতে আমদানী বর্ত্তমানে সম্ভব নয়। এই দিকে বিশেষভাবে দৃষ্টি না দিলে জাতির ধ্বংস অনিবার্য্য। কি শিল্প ক্ষেত্রে, কি কৃষি ক্ষেত্রে, খাদ্য ও প্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্যাদি যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে উৎপাদন সুষ্ঠুভাবে প্রবর্ত্তন না করিতে পারিলে আমাদের স্বাধীন শিশু রাষ্ট্র ধ্বংস হইতে বাধ্য। সুতরাং শ্রমিক ও কৃষক শ্রেণীকে উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধির কার্য্যে নিয়োগ করা একান্ত যুক্তিযুক্ত। অর্থনৈতিক, সামাজিক ও রাজনৈতিক চেতনাসম্পন্ন করিতে সক্ষম হইতে হইবে। তাহা হইলে উহারা আদর্শবাদী হইয়া উঠিবে এবং এই সঙ্কট মুহূর্ত্তে জাতিকে বাঁচাইতে পারিবে।

সত্য বটে যে জাতি সংগঠন, যথা জাতীয় ট্রেড ইউনিয়ন কংগ্রেস, জাতীয় সৈন্যবাহিনী ও জাতীয় জনতা যদি এই কাজে উদ্যোগী না হয় তাহা হইলে সমাজবিরোধী পার্টী বা উপদল আমাদের এত কালের আশা ও আকাঙ্ক্ষা নির্ম্মূল করিয়া দিবে।

উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধিকল্পে কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার নানা প্রকারের কমিটি প্রণয়ন করিতে উদ্যোগী হইয়াছেন। বাংলা দেশে এই প্রকার শ্রম বিভাগে উপদেষ্টা কমিটি গঠন করিতে আমরা বহুবার প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করিয়াছি; কিন্তু পূর্ব্বে কোন ফলই হয় নাই। এক্ষণে আমেদাবাদের সূতা কল বনাম মালিক পক্ষের বিবাদে ১৯২১ সালের অক্টোবর মাসে মহাত্মা গান্ধী এক সালিশী করেন; সেই সভায় তিনি ঘোষণা করেন যে শ্রমিকরা মালিকদের সমঅংশীদার। কল কারখানা শিল্পে আদর্শ স্থাপন করিতে হইবে। এই আদর্শ অনুযায়ী আজ যদি সরকার ও মালিক শ্রেণী চলিতে পারেন, তবেই দেশকে আমরা সঙ্কট হইতে বাঁচাইতে পারিব পূর্ব্বে পূর্ব্ব গভর্ণমেণ্টের শ্রমনীতি ব্যর্থ হইয়াছিল; তার কারণ, গভর্ণমেণ্ট-পরিচালিত কারখানায় শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানে ইউরোপীয় অফিসারদের দুর্নীতি।

মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, সেই সকল অফিসারদের ভিতর যাঁহারা এখনও পরিচালকরূপে কর্ণধার রহিয়াছেন তাঁহারা দুর্নীতির আশ্রয়ে আত্মপ্রসাদ লাভ করিতেছেন। কাঁকীনাড়া ও দমদমে F. S. D. machinery factory তাহার দৃষ্টান্ত স্থল। যে সকল বিদেশী-পরিচালিত চটকল নানাভাবে শ্রমিকদের মধ্যে বিবাদ বিসম্বাদ বাড়াইতেছেন, হিন্দু-মুসলমান পার্থক্য আনিয়া নিজদিগকে অর্থশালী করিতেছেন—এই দুর্দ্দিন কবে আমরা কাটাইয়া উঠিব।

পরিশেষে, জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদসাধনে কৃষকদের উন্নতি ও কারখানার মালিকদের অত্যাচার হইতে শ্রমিকদের অব্যাহতি ও জাতীয়করণ দাবী করিয়া আমি আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করিলাম।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker who has the distinction of presenting the first budget of the province of West Bengal of His Majesty's Dominion of India. I do not see eye to eye with him when he claims for himself the unique distinction of presenting the first budget of the province of West Bengal of free India. My conception of freedom, it appears, is something different from his. I do not think that complete independence is the same as what we have got now, viz., Dominion Status.

Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker had had in the past many other unique distinctions. He had the unique distinction of presenting the first budget on behalf of a Muslim League Ministry in this very House of the first Government constituted under the Macdonald Award. He had the unique distinction of becoming one of the members of Lord Wavell's first Interim Government. He has now the unique distinction of presenting the budget of the Government of West Bengal.

In presenting the budget he starts with an expression of grief for the sad and tragic assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and then he expresses his firm determination to materialise the yet unfulfilled dreams and desires of Mahatma Gandhi. Sir, in this connection I would like very much to draw his attention to one point which impressed me most. The hand that pierced the heart of Mahatma Gandhi was the hand of a young man. These crimes are generally committed by youths of impressionable age. Youths generally are lovers of thrills, sensation and romance. These youths, we find again, are far ahead of others in every progressive struggle the world has ever seen. These youths would lend their blind support to any tendency, either virtuous or vicious, which will be able to present to them greater thrill, greater sensation and greater romance. If we are serious and sincerely desirous of doing our best to fulfil the dreams and desires of Mahatma Gandhi, in that case we will have to take steps to mobilise in the right direction the energies of revolutionary youths and this, in my opinion, cannot be achieved by mere open declaration of pious hopes and secret negotiations with Imperialist and Capitalist interests. What is required for this is bold and straightforward steps and measures to create a revolution in our thinking, feeling, action and in the way of our existence. Sir, in this budget I regret not to find anything of that nature, anything that can really inspire anybody. For this, however, I do not blame the Hon'ble Finance Minister or his predecessors in office. But I blame the circumstances of which the Hon'ble Finance Minister may either not be fully cognisant or being conscious is not prepared to accept them as realities. Dr. Roy, the leader of the present Ministerialist Party, has been a physician of a very high order. Sir, philosophers and sociologists of our time are almost unanimous in thinking that, like an individual, society itself is also an organism. Like an individual organism social organism has also its birth, growth, decay and death. Dr. Roy, an eminent physician of individual organism, has now transferred his talents and energies towards ministering to the physical needs of the social organism and we hope and expect in course of time he will prove himself to be equally efficient, but for the present I do not think, as I have already said, he can really inspire anybody. The budget he has presented is an old stereotyped budget. He has, however, I must admit, made some improvements over the

previous budgets. He has spent a considerable part of his time while delivering his statement on lamentation over the partition of Bengal. We entirely agree with him and those who think like him that partition of Bengal, which I call the murder of Bengal, has created circumstances over which perhaps we shall never have sufficient control to enable us to overcome our difficulties. So long as the partition of Bengal exists, the difficulty which the Hon'ble Finance Minister feels and experiences will continue. Unfortunately in his budget statement he entered into a little acrimonious discussion which, I think, at this stage is quite unnecessary. He attributes the partition of Bengal to what he calls the pernicious two-nation theory. But if he had courage to see things in their true perspective and appreciate them, however unpleasant they may be to his taste, he would have seen that this pernicious two-nation theory which he has referred to is the natural offspring of an equally pernicious one-nation theory. The real thing, however, is that India is the home of many nations and unless we are prepared to accept a multi-nation theory, rejecting both one and two we shall not be able to make India a real temple of peace. I do not want, however, to dilate much upon this. From the statement it appears, because he has made mention of it in so many words, that he is fully conscious of the difficulties and obstructions that lie before him. If he were free to prepare the budget for us to his choice, I have no doubt, knowing him as I do, he could have made us happy, but unfortunately he is not free to do so.

So far as the expenditure side is concerned, I must congratulate him for the wonderful way in which he has distributed the available funds. But if he wants really a revolution in our social order and in our way of existence, in that case greater emphasis will have to be laid on the increase in revenues, and here the growing needs of the people are so great and so much that if we want really to do anything for them, we will have to swell up our income and that can only be done by creating a revolution in our revenue system. Here I suggest—rather I do assert with all the emphasis that I can command—that no Finance Minister and no Ministry and no budget can give us what we want so long as our present sources of revenues remain as they are. Srijut Sarker has said that negotiations are going on with the Government of India, and unless we arrive at a final settlement, we do not know exactly where we stand. That is true, but the tendency which the Government of India is already showing does not create much hope in us and does not inspire us either, because swelling our funds to that strength which is necessary for complete satisfaction of our needs requires complete socialisation. Fifty years ago there was some romance in Home Rule as opposed to foreign rule, but in these days, Sir, we do not care much whether we are ruled by a white or a brown man but what we are concerned with are the contents of freedom—social, economic and political. So far as these are concerned, we feel and I hope the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will also agree with me that we stand just where we were before. Complete socialisation requires complete independence. Now, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has said in his budget speech that the main sources of expected revenue are nationalisation of big basic industries and nationalisation of land—these two things are under the consideration of the Government of India. In fact they have already laid down that principle. They have declared that the question of nationalisation of industries cannot arise now. Only the other day—I believe yesterday—Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru addressing the All-India Congress Committee declared that for some time to come he would not think of nationalisation of industries because the present world question was one of production and not of distribution. And with regard to nationalisation of land, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has already stated that the Central policy is to give compensation and the actual rate of compensation has not yet been fixed: so he cannot at once go for the nationalisation of land. If this be the tendency that the industries must be left to individual enterprise, which is another way of saying that they must depend on the capitalists of India, and if the zamindary be acquired by paying heavy compensation to

zamindars who find considerable difficulty to derive any profit out of their zamindaries, which are no longer a profitable concern, then in that case it goes without saying that the main tendency of the Government of India and of the Government of Bengal as well, because it is a subordinate limb of the Government of India, is to take shelter under the protective wings of feudal lords, financial lords and imperial lords. Under these circumstances one cannot reasonably expect more than what we have got in the budget presented by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. That is why I say that in the present set-up the Finance Minister has very nicely distributed revenue in the budget.

In this budget I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to one small item of expenditure, namely, community kitchens. This appears to me just something ridiculous because the community kitchen and its spread is not much consistent with the capitalist order of society. By community kitchen the Hon'ble the Finance Minister expects to relieve small household women from the drudgery of cooking in their houses. If he could add a little more money to provide children's creches, I think they would have been much more relieved. But he proposes to relieve them from the drudgery of household affairs. Is he prepared to give them sufficient employment to enable them to use their time profitably or by simply relieving them by taking them from their household occupation he wants to create devil's workshop in every household? I would request him to think over this matter. If he can provide sufficient work for men and women, in that case community kitchens would be quite good——

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Hashem, how long more do you wish to take?

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Ten minutes more, Sir, otherwise I think the spread of this community kitchen would lead to undesirable things.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Hashem, I think it would be better if you continue your speech tomorrow.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: It is no use taking it tomorrow. I shall finish within five minutes.

Sir, the next item in the Budget is the revenue expectation from Excise, from betting and gambling. On this point previous speakers have spoken, so I do not want to take much time, but I shall content myself with only remarking this that the present Government, which swears allegiance to the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, should see that there is gradual prohibition in this country.

Now, we find also another small item of expenditure in the Budget, namely, aid to political sufferers who are described as war veterans. That is a very laudable thing, and I congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on that. But at the same time there is a misgiving in my mind in that respect. I would like to know from the Hon'ble the Finance Minister—I do not know if in his reply he would refer to the item but I would like that he should categorically lay before us the whole procedure of distributing this money to the war veterans—whether Government will do it or Government will set up an All-Party Committee to deal with the question. To put it very bluntly, I would like to know if the present Congress Party and the Ministry will recognise the past services of other people like the Chittagong Raiders and similar other patriotic people, or they will confine their benevolence only to their own party men?

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Not to Pakisthanis.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Muslims do not claim anything from you. Here I mean other people who do not belong to the Congress. According to

your idea we belong to a different class and we are not entitled to get it. But my point is, is it going to benefit political sufferers belonging only to the Congress or is it going to benefit all others as well who do not belong to the Congress party? To put it in another way, is it an attempt to raise an army of whole time Government paid workers of the Hon'ble the Deputy Premier of India Sardar Vallabhai Patel's monolithic Congress party? We want an answer to this question which we are perfectly entitled to have, and I hope the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on behalf of his party will give us complete satisfaction.

Now, Sir, since the time is very short, I again congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for the handsome manner in which he has distributed the funds that can be available under the present Capitalist and Imperialist order under the Dominion Status, and I hope that he will also realise in course of time that we are not just enjoying that freedom which we are persuading ourselves to believe.

In conclusion, Sir, I would draw his attention to one of his statements. While referring to Mahatmaji's death he has stated that with the death of Mahatmaji a crowded epoch of Indian history has ended. That is true. Now, the question which I would like to place before the Hon'ble Finance Minister and his party is, are we to take that point where Mahatmaji's life ended as final, or we shall take upon ourselves the task of carrying the history of India towards further progress? If we care to endeavour to carry the history of India towards such progress, in that case we cannot accept the Mountbatten Award and concession as final and this the Congress Party will realise and give us some idea as to what they expect in future in this respect.

Sir, with these words I congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for presenting his budget before us and resume my seat.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-53 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 24th February, 1948, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 24th February, 1948, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 57 members.

General Discussion of the Budget.

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOWDHURY: মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয়, অর্থসচিব মহাশয় পরিষদ কক্ষে নেই, এ সব discussionএর মানে কি?

Sri A. K. GHOSE: তিনি নেই এখন, কিন্তু আমি ত আছি।

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOWDHURY: কিন্তু আপনি ত উত্তর দেবেন না। উত্তর দেবেন তিনি।

Mr. SPEAKER: It is desirable that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister should be here at the time of budget discussion

The Hon'ble Sri BIMAL CHANDRA SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would be taking the notes.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: On a point of privilege Is not the honourable member entitled to get a reply from the Finance Minister? And unless the Finance Minister hears the speech and the points raised by the Speaker, how will he reply?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already drawn the attention of the Government that he should be here. In the meantime Mr. Sinha is taking notes.

Sri SATISH CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY: I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister on the budget he has placed before the House. It must be admitted that in certain aspects it opens up a vision of activity towards the good of the province on wider fields which were unexplored by Finance Ministers before.

In my opinion the improvement of the province depends on our capacity to tackle four cardinal factors: The rivers, the roads, rehabilitation and the relief. I have very carefully studied the budget provisions as far as it deals with the four points; but the whole thing, it seems, has been placed without any co-ordination, from the jumbled recommendations of the various members or district officers; and to an impartial mind, it leaves an impression that equity regarding the necessity of the various districts has not been maintained.

The Hon'ble Minister has said in his budget speech that the only big river that partitioned Bengal has got is the Ganges. The first point that I should like to impress is that the consideration of the Ganges should have been given priority No. 1. As late as in 1788 Mr. Rennell wrote "that the Ganges with its numerous branches and adjuncts intersects the country in a variety of directions so as to form complete and easy inland navigation that can be conceived. Every part of the country has, even in the dry season, some navigable stream within 25 miles at the furthest and more commonly within a third part of that distance". It will, therefore, be seen that at

that time the rivers almost satisfied not only the question of irrigation but also the question of communication. Bengal was then a very prosperous country.

Bhagirathi used to be the Western Mouth of the Ganges 400 years ago. Its off-take has remained closed by sand bars during the dry seasons since 1915, and there is a flow of Ganges water through the Bhagirathi only during the flood seasons when the bars are overtopped. Bhagirathi gets its supply from torrential rivers whose catchment areas are in the hills and plateaus at Santhal Parganas and Chota Nagpur, but these rivers dry up in winter. Bhagirathi also gets its supply of Ganges water from the Julungi, Mathabhanga, Ichchamati and Churni Khal, but the off-takes of these from Padma are also closed in dry seasons

The Ganges with its numerous sub-branches are all dying or already dead due to the diversion of Ganges water through Padma, and it is universally agreed that without restoration of continuous flow of Ganges water to its dead and dying rivers the whole area will gradually revert to swamps and jungles. There is also a danger that as time passed the whole of the Ganges water will flow through Padma and "the river Hooghly (Ganges) will die in the same way as those in the 24-Parganas are dying", but in spite of these Mr Adams Williams, one of the well-known irrigation engineers, said that it is best to leave matters alone Of course for a foreign irrigation expert it is very easy to advocate for leaving such matters alone but to us it is a question of life and death. Without going into the detailed history it may be mentioned that there was a continuous flow of Ganges water through Bhagirathi for a period of 7 years, from 1908 to 1914, and if the channels at Padma as they existed at the above period of 7 years had been fixed so that it always flowed and passed these off-takes, the continuous flow of Ganges water through the Bhagirathi would have continued to this day It is the opinion of many experts that the training of river channels by a pair of guide banks as originally designed by Mr James R. Bell is possible, and if we construct, even now, a pair of guide banks at the western mouth of the Ganges the flow of the water can be diverted from Padma to the Ganges and river channel at the mouth can be fixed in its course. In that case the flow of Ganges water through the dead and dying rivers of Central Bengal during the dry seasons will help to erode the shallower portion of those channels and enable them to carry greater volume of Ganges water with the rise of water level in the Padma during floods These deeper channels of the dying rivers will also help to drain away the water collected in the low lands on their banks The relief to the water-logging, eradication of the breeding place of mosquitoes, will improve not only the health but also the agriculture and will lead to a happy and prosperous Bengal. It is therefore worth while for our Hon'ble Finance Minister to consider this scheme and take it up immediately, and I am sure that it will be agreed that unless this is taken up along with the provision of the re-excavation of some of the rivers, such as Saraswati in the district of Hooghly and Howrah, Kunti in Chinsurah, the drainage flushing scheme of Murshidabad and the preparation of master plan for the drainage of Calcutta and surrounding areas, the grants given for these schemes will not be half so useful unless the question of opening the mouth of the Ganges be given priority No. 1 and be taken up at once along with these schemes. I suggest that the allocation of Rs 4,50,000 made for the development of the River Research Institute be spent this year for survey and estimate to form two guide banks for intake of Padma water into the Ganges and, if necessary, to take expert opinion in this matter. The opinion given above tallies with the opinion of an expert irrigation engineer, Mr. K B. Roy, who was an Executive Engineer for Irrigation for a long time in Bengal.

Regarding equity of irrigation grants to various districts, I regret to mention that it seems that in four schemes Rs. 10,57,000 has been allocated to Bankura district alone, whereas only Rs. 1,50,000 has been provided

for the district of Murshidabad. Almost the same fate with 24-Parganas with a provision of only Rs. 3,00,000. Howrah and Hooghly combined totals Rs. 8,25,000. I would not have grudged if the needs of Bankura were greater than those of any other district, but when the whole question of rivers of Bengal has been dealth with it would have been far better if these allocations had been made according to the urgent necessity of the districts on the recommendation of expert irrigation engineers. I, with some knowledge of the rivers of Bengal, do feel that the question of immediate necessities has not been kept in mind at the time of making these allocations.

Regarding allocations made to the roads, it is surprising to find that in the Hooghly district two of the main roads which ought to have been taken up immediately, no provision has been made for them; one is from Grand Trunk Road to Tarakeswar *via* Singur and another is the old Benares Road from Howrah to Shiakhala and upwards. If these two roads had been taken up immediately, the question of rehabilitation of middle class people would have been solved to a great extent as these *kuchcha* roads run through a large number of villages where immediate rehabilitation is possible. In this case it also seems that before allocations made to the various districts the question of the immediate priorities have not been considered and it leaves an impression that the allocations have been made according to the pressure which the people of the district or its members have been able to put before the Minister.

I further suggest that the sum of Rs. 50 lakhs which has been set apart for the rehabilitation of the middle class people should be spent on the roads of Bengal instead of any attempts being made to rehabilitate middle class people with this amount. On a very moderate estimate it will take at least Rs. 10,000 to rehabilitate a middle class family. With Rs. 50 lakhs we can just accommodate 500 families or say about 5,000 men and women; but if this sum is spent on the construction of main district highways and roads it will open up vast areas for rehabilitation where large areas of lands may be available for the middle class families who would like to settle in West Bengal. A small surcharge may be made on the lands opened up by these roads. It was by this method of opening up communications that the question of rehabilitation was solved at one time in Germany and Italy and also at some portion of America I would therefore suggest that the allocation of Rs. 50 lakhs for the rehabilitation be diverted for the construction of roads, specially in districts within 40—50 miles from Calcutta. Highways are lifeline of a country: If you open highways you can solve many problems including rehabilitation

Regarding the rehabilitation estimate of Rs. 22,50,000 for the maintenance of destitute homes, State orphanage, etc , I suggest that this sum should have been increased, as this question has come to the forefront with the migration of East Bengal people to West Bengal.

A grant of Rs. 20 lakhs has been made for the re-housing of *bustee* dwellers. I would feel that instead of an attempt to remodel Calcutta *bustees* or slums of Bengal which have proved a failure all along, it will be far better if this grant is spent along with a portion of the grant of Rs. 50 lakhs allocated for the improvement of transport facilities of greater Calcutta, for building up beautiful garden cities consisting of small houses, open spaces for children and women within ten or fifteen miles from Calcutta where a large portion of the *bustees* of Calcutta can be transferred. Cheap transport facilities may be arranged to bring these people to Calcutta. It will not only be a beautiful plot worthy of the name of the Government but also it will be a source of revenue to the Government. Further, most of the *bustee* lands of Calcutta belong to landlords and the re-modelling of the *bustees* according to Bengal Slum Improvement Act of 1946 has been found not to be a practical proposition.

Regarding the relief to the poor, it must be admitted that community kitchen is no solution to the problem and the provision made of Rs. 77,92,000 does not seem to be sufficient for this purpose. More allotment ought to have been made on this account. Subject to the remarks regarding rivers, roads, rehabilitation and relief, I am of opinion that a very promising start has been made for the improvement of these four factors.

Before I close, however, I cannot but mention another factor. I do feel that our experienced Finance Minister with an international reputation should not have presented this budget taking into full consideration of the revenue of Rs. 5,88,00,000 from excise in the revenue side, as it is a known fact that we in the Congress intend to prohibit the sale of liquor and other intoxicants at an early date I had expected that our experienced Minister should frame a budget in such a way that if it was settled to enforce the prohibition in West Bengal, the budget would not be upset nor it will cause a collapse in the financial structure. It would have been far better to take previous notice of this loss of revenue and frame budget in such a form so that in case of prohibition we could do without this amount in the revenue side. It would have been better if Rs. 5,88,00,000 could be kept into a separate account to be utilised acording to the suggestions made by the members and accepted by the house for various improvements of the province In case of prohibition we might have done without this revenue, otherwise if the budget is framed year in and year out with this heavy sum on the revenue side, it will be well nigh impossible for us any time to vote for the total prohibition of liquor as the spectre of the financial collapse will haunt on the minds of the members before they vote for the total prohibition

Janab ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, listening to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister brought back memories of the days when this House was fuller, when it possessed a Government and a real live and vigilant Opposition During his short stay with us, he must have realised and probably conveyed to his colleagues that a one-party Government is not good for a democratic House of Legislature. They must have realised that a huge majority on one side and a negligible and ineffective Opposition on the other are unsatisfactory and depressive for the whole House. Such a situation leads to totalitarian tendencies. It becomes the antithesis of democracy. A parliamentary system becomes almost negative when you have no Opposition. (Janab MUDDASSIR HOSSAIN: A mockery!) It is being suggested to me, Sir, that I should call such a system a mockery. I accept the correction. I appreciate the rule of and by the majority, but that should not be the be-all and end-all of our parliamentary efforts because, Sir, counting of heads need not necessarily be the only criterion in a House of Legislature Majorities and minorities should have their limitatations That is why I requested the former Premier to manufacture an Opposition because without a decent Opposition the House cannot work satisfactorily. I repeat my request to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, as the Premier has not been here with us during these discussions. He will kindly convey my suggestion to his chief, and I hope the Cabinet will sit together and decide on the creation of an Opposition. This suggestion is being made for the obvious reason that the Ministers have ignored the House altogether. There has hardly been any debate on any of the Bills proposed before the House. Sir, you must have noticed and also the Deputy Speaker that honourable members moved dozens of amendments, but the most depressing experience that I have ever had in any House of Legislature was the continuous repetition of the words "Not moved", "Not moved", "Not moved", when called upon to move them. It put them in the wrong and it certainly was of great disadvantage to the Opposition. My reason for saying that is that if members of the Government Party move amendments, the Opposition feels that it is the intention of the Cabinet to alter the Bill but when they withdraw them so unceremoniously,

they rob the Opposition of the right to move such amendments altogether. That, Sir, is not all. The silence of the Ministry in expounding their plans and policies robs the voters—our masters—of their right to know what their representatives in this House are doing. Sir, I hope you will use your influence with members of the Government and help them get out of this conspiracy of silence and tell us more as to what they want and how they want to do it.

I congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for his statement. I hope his colleagues will take a lesson from the manner in which he has told us in a lucid, long and explanatory statement as to what he wants to do during 1948-49. I also take the liberty of congratulating him on his rehabilitation in the Congress fold after a punishment which was to extend to 20 years. I am glad they have taken him back because I have a feeling that he will try and make them look at things in a reasonable way, in a matter of fact way, in a way which will make things more bearable for those who do not agree with them. I sympathise with the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for the very difficult task that has been put to him and which he has so courageously undertaken at such short notice

Sir, he had to build his estimates on data which covered only 7½ months. The greater difficulty for him, Mr Speaker, was that he was given perhaps the shortest time in the history of any Legislature to prepare a budget or at least to prepare his financial statement. It was only his courage and his mastery of the subject that allowed him to do it. A great businessman, an ex-Minister of the Finance Department of Bengal, an ex-Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council but above all, a self-made man, he wants to serve his province to the best of his abilities. I feel, Sir, that the finances of Bengal are in safe and capable hands. I do not hold him responsible for 1948-49, but, Sir, I would appeal to the Government Party to see to it that they do not create any further trouble for the Cabinet, that they do not once more change horses in mid-stream. If the finances of Bengal are in the capable hands of the present Minister, I feel that by 1949-50 or 1950-51 we shall have passed through the grind and gone out of the wood into the shining light of better finances for Bengal.

Sir, the cynic has been uttering remarks which normally do disturb the average man. I have heard it said that the centre of gravity of the political economy of Bengal has shifted from Clive Street to Burrabazar. I hope it is wrong and I hope the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, by his dexterity and by his single-minded devotion to the needs and requirements of Bengal, will prove the cynic to be wrong I hope he and his colleagues in the Ministry will see to it that the finances of the Government of Bengal do not get mixed up with private finance. Sir, that has to be done because tongues are wagging and it is also being said that capitalists and outside financial interests will now control the destinies of Bengal. That should not happen. There should be no truck between Government finance and non-Government finance and the Ministers, individually or collectively, should have no truck with non-Government financial activities.

Having said that, Sir, I wish to express my gratitude to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for not having imposed fresh taxation in 1948-49, but I shudder to think as to what will happen when the many Planning Committees he has established have submitted their plans Then perhaps he will come out as a monster and demand taxes from us which, if the plans are good, I hope will be paid by the public and the merchant classes. He must have noticed, in his long experience, that merchants and industrialists have played their part in the general economy of the province, quite satisfactorily. If he wants more money then it should be the duty of the Government to see to it that the merchants are allowed to earn sufficient, so that they may pay tax to any percentage he demands. The war has made us accustomed to go up to 96¼ per cent. If Bengal needs the services

of merchants and industrialists and if he goes up even to that figure, we shall not ask him not to do it. Things are difficult these days. What with the world financial situation, what with lesser industrial and agricultural production, the difficulties of international exchange, lack of shipping and transportation and above all the system of controls, quotas and licences, it has become difficult to carry on commerce and industry. I hope in his view of these things he will show sympathy and generosity.

Having read the financial statement, Sir, the impression left on my mind is that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister is rather disturbed that Calcutta has lost the large hinterland which is necessary for its growth and expansion. I know, Sir, we have lost about two-thirds of old Bengal, but if the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will try and tap new sources, I feel that Calcutta will still retain its great position. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Calcutta was not the Port of Bengal alone but of the whole of the Gangetic valley, and under the new dispensation if the Government of Bihar and the Government of Orissa tap their mineral resources fully I feel that the Port of Calcutta, the inlet and outlet for this huge hinterland, will not only regain its position but may expand its income.

In this connection, Sir, I can appeal with confidence to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, who knows the authorities in East Bengal. If instead of the present-day short-sighted politics, to which we have grown accustomed, he makes use of his connections with his old colleagues of the older days, I feel that, although separated constitutionally, East and West Bengal, economically and socially, can still work together One part has things which the other wants, and the other part has things which we want here. That being the situation I feel, Sir, a bit of talk-around-the-table may remove many of the difficulties he has visualised. I also feel that the interests of both the old parts of Bengal demand such a move Inter-dependence and mutual assistance rather than competition should be our policy. I hope that when he feels a bit more comfortable in the saddle he is now occupying, he will turn his face towards East Bengal and then true economic friendship will grow and bitterness will disappear. We had enough of controversy. We have paid in misery and in blood for our misdeeds. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister referred feelingly to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination. Is it worth while, Sir, talking in the same document of the pernicious theory of two nations? It has been misunderstood, particularly by friends who believe in *varnashrama*. Those who have faith in a society built on *varnashrama* have to talk not of two nations but four nations and also of a fifth, the *panchama*, otherwise known as untouchables But need he have referred to this at all in his otherwise very interesting financial statement for the good reason that, two nations or ten nations, the leaders of the political groups in the country have accepted it. It is a *fait accompli*. It is something which has to be worked now We have to wait for the day when unfriendliness and bitterness will disappear. His financial statement, otherwise an interesting document as I have said, is likely to be misinterpreted as trying to make a propagandist approach to the whole problem. I hope it was not so, but the impression left on me was that.

That impression, Sir, is likely further to be strengthened by the doles he has distributed to all and sundry out of the largesse which he possesses and which according to his own statement is not enough. Despite his cry of agony over the partition of Bengal, he has forgotten essentials and distributed the doles to non-essential subjects. And what, Sir, has surprised me most is that having described the two-nation theory as pernicious, he has run down the Radcliffe Award and shown that that pernicious theory has been swallowed whole hog and more is being wanted. That will not help us. That will not carry us far. That will continue strife, and I for one would respectfully urge upon the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to forget the past and to begin to build the future. Sir, as I have said that

impression is likely to be created from the manner in which he has distributed money out of the estimated revenue. His doles range from goat multiplication to potato multiplication and dry cows' salvage to community kitchens. In the "details" of the financial statement, given on pages 40—46, I tried to calculate the items and they are 160 in number or somewhere there. Sir, I know that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister or perhaps those who had prepared the general structure of the budget, must have been approached by the different Ministers to let them have as much as was possible for their own departments and for enhancing their own popularity. I do not hold the Hon'ble the Finance Minister responsible for anything of the kind. He got a baby which he has got to carry. The more important points and the more constructive points in the budget statement are perhaps his, and that is why I have expressed my gratefulness to him.

In trying to please all, a man generally fails to please anybody. As and when the estimates come to be spent, I hope he will try and ask for reappropriations at the end of the year because, I again repeat, that this budget at this time, the formative period of new Bengal, demands concentrated attention on the essentials and not distributed attention on non-essentials. He and I may differ about essentials, but, Sir, he and the whole House will agree that in this formative period our whole attention should be directed towards food, clothing and housing.

I also welcome the planning committees, but they will have to wait until the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has set the house of Bengal in order. It may take three years: it may take five years. We had a number of lean years: there was the war: there was the terrible famine: and now there is this partition. Everything is difficult, and it has its resultant drawbacks. I hope at this time we shall not allow our resources to be frittered away on things like community kitchens and potato multiplication. If I am wrong, I hope he will correct me. So far as I can gather, Sir, we have to pay two crores of rupees to the Centre. That surely, Mr. Speaker, is not a huge debt even for the one-third of the old province of Bengal left to us. I want the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to consider the possibilities as and when the plans come before him to borrow. Bengal can afford to take fairly large loans and these, if used in productive schemes, will bring back not only money but other advantages in many directions for our people who need every kind of assistance.

I know, Sir, he had not had time to go into the details of all these things but subventions and gifts from the Centre will have to be joined up with public loans because as much money as we can put in fundamentals today will be for the benefit of the people of Bengal. Through him, Sir, I wish to extend our gratitude to the Central Government for their magnificent decision on the Damodar project. Not only our sentiments of gratitude but, Sir, the thankfulness of generations to come will go to Delhi, to the men who have had the courage and the foresight to make that decision. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister and his advisers have also paid attention to some of the smaller irrigation plans. I hope he will be able to carry them out in 1948-49. (At this stage the blue light was on.) I could have spoken longer, Sir, and gone into the details, but first of all I do not want to criticise anything which is not his, and, secondly, when the demands for grants come before the House, we shall have the chance to criticise and to submit our suggestions for his consideration. But before I sit down, Sir, I would earnestly appeal to him to consider the question of adding to the Government of India subventions and gifts by borrowing money for the benefit of the people of Bengal. The province, Sir, can afford a large public debt. It will bless those who lend and those who spend.

Sreejukta BINA DAS: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, মামুলি প্রথা অনুসারে গভর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষের আসনে বসে অর্থসচিবকে তাঁর বাজেটের জন্য অভিনন্দন ও প্রশংসা জানান

করেই আমার আজকের এই আলোচনা আরম্ভ করা হয়ত উচিত ছিল। কিন্তু আমি তা করব না। তার কারণ, আমার মনে হয় আজকের দিনে আমরা যারা স্বাধীন ভারতবর্ষের শাসন ও গঠনের গুরু দায়িত্ব নিয়েছি, তাদের আজকের এই একান্ত সঙ্কটময় ও সমস্যাবহুল পরিস্থিতিতে আত্মপ্রসাদের অবকাশ কোনোখানেই নেই। আজ আমাদের প্রত্যেকেরই প্রয়োজন—কঠোর এবং নির্ম্মম আত্মবিচার ও আত্মসমালোচনার। আর যাই করি ফাঁকির ভিত্তির উপর যেন স্বাধীন দেশের ইমারত আমরা গড়তে না যাই। বাজেটের মধ্যে বিশেষ করে বাজেট সম্বন্ধে অর্থসচিব মহোদয়ের অভিভাষণে যে জিনিষটা আমার বারেবারেই মনে হয়েছে তা এই—অর্থসচিব মহোদয় কংগ্রেসের আদর্শের সুরে বাজেটকে গ্রথিত করার ইচ্ছা করেছেন, মহাত্মাজীর পুণ্য নাম এর সঙ্গে আগাগোড়া জড়িত রেখেছেন ও জনসাধারণের স্বার্থ আর উন্নতিকেই জাতীয় অর্থনীতির প্রধানতম লক্ষ্য হিসাবে স্বীকার করে নিয়েছেন। কিন্তু বাস্তবে বাজেটের বিভিন্ন খাতে ব্যয় বরাদ্দের ভিতর জনসাধারণের স্বার্থ সেভাবে রক্ষিত হয়নি বা কংগ্রেসের আদর্শ সেভাবে রূপ পায়নি, যা হলে বা পেলে আমরা যারা জনসাধারণের প্রতিনিধিত্ব করি তারা কিছু পরিমাণেও খুসী হতে পারতাম। আমার বক্তব্য আরো স্পষ্ট করে বলা দরকার, অর্থসচিব মহোদয় বলেছেন—আজকের দিনের সমস্যার মূল কথা উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি করা, ও যাতে সে উৎপাদনের লাভ সমভাবে বণ্টিত হয় তার প্রতি দৃষ্টি রাখা। শিল্প ক্ষেত্রে উৎপাদনের ভার এখন মোটামুটি ধনিক সম্প্রদায়ের হাতেই ছেড়ে দেয়া হয়েছে, এবং বলা হয়েছে বর্ত্তমান পরিস্থিতিতে এটা অনিবার্য। কিন্তু আমাদের বক্তব্য এই—সেই সঙ্গে সঙ্গে অর্থসচিব মহোদয় আমাদের যে আশ্বাস দিয়েছেন গভর্ণমেণ্টের লক্ষ্য হবে যে নীতি মাত্র কতিপয় ভাগ্যবানের হাতে সমস্ত ঐশ্বর্য কেন্দ্রীভূত করে, যে নীতি ধনীকে আরো ধনী এবং গরীবকে আরো গরীব করে তোলে, সে নীতি পরিহার করা। সেই নীতি সম্বন্ধে তিনি কার্যকরী কোন ব্যবস্থাই গ্রহণ করেননি, একটা pious wish হিসাবেই তাকে রেখে দিয়েছেন। এ ধরণের negative measure আজকের দিনে যথেষ্ট নয়। জাতীয় ধনের বণ্টনে অসাম্য কমাবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের positive measure গ্রহণ করা উচিত ছিল। Profit sharing সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা, লাভের অংশের উপর শ্রমিকদের কতখানি দাবী, ধনিকের লাভের অংশ কতদূর পর্যন্ত উঠতে পারবে, সে সম্বন্ধে সুস্পষ্ট নির্দ্দেশ দেয়ার ব্যবস্থা বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে থাকা খুবই উচিত ছিল। তা না থাকায় দেশের উৎপীড়িত জনসাধারণ যারা দীর্ঘ দিন ধরে শুধু বঞ্চনাই ভোগ করে এসেছে, যারা আজও দারিদ্র্যের নিম্নতম স্তরে পড়ে থেকে অমানুষের জীবন কাটাচ্ছে, তাদের আশান্বিত হবার ভরসা পাবার কোন অবকাশই থাকে না। অথচ এই ভরসা বা আশ্বাস যদি তাদের না দিতে পারি তাহলে দেশের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি করা যে কত শক্ত, প্রায় অসম্ভবই, একথা আজকের দিনে কারোরই অজানা নেই। অর্থসচিব মহোদয় বলেছেন contented এবং efficient labour উৎপাদনের পক্ষে vital asset. তাঁর এ উক্তির সঙ্গে আমরা সবাই একমত। কিন্তু সেই সঙ্গে আমরা এও বলতে চাই efficiency বহু পরিমাণে contentmentএর উপর নির্ভরশীল, আর, আজকের দিনে বেঁচে থাকার, মানুষের মত বেঁচে থাকার মত মজুরী—যাকে বলে living wage—তা না পেলে শ্রমিকদের contentment কি করে আমরা আশা করব? অর্থসচিব মহোদয় আরো বলেছেন—"Increasing production is the surest way to increasing wages." এ সম্বন্ধে আমার প্রধান বক্তব্য এই—Capitalist systemএ একথা একেবারেই সত্য নয়। একথা সত্য হলে উৎপাদন অনুপাতে সব ক্ষেত্রে মজুরী বৃদ্ধি হলেও আজকে সমস্ত পৃথিবী জোড়া এই অসাম্য এমন উৎকট হয়ে উঠত না। দ্বিতীয় বক্তব্য এই—আজকের শ্রমিকরা যা চাইছে তা increasing wage তত নয়, যত living wage; যেটুকু বেঁচে থাকার পক্ষে তাদের অনিবার্য, তা না পেলে তাদের কাছে efficiencyর দাবী করা বাতুলতা মাত্র। স্বীকার করি আজকের দিনের উৎপাদন দিয়ে রাতারাতি জনসাধারণের জীবনযাত্রার মান যথাযথ উন্নত করা সম্ভব নয়। কিন্তু জনসাধারণ ঠিক সে আশা বা দাবীও করে না। তারা শুধু চায়—তারা জাতীয় উন্নতির জন্য সমস্ত শক্তি নিয়োগ করতে রাজি, শুধু যদি তারা জানে জাতীয় সরকার ধনিক সম্প্রদায়ের দয়ার উপর তাদের ফেলে রাখবেন না, তাদের শোষণ এবং নির্যাতন আগের মতন অবাধে চলতে পারবে না।

এই প্রসঙ্গে গভর্ণমেণ্ট শ্রমিক খাতে যে ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করেছেন তার সম্বন্ধে বলব—ট্রেড্ ইউনিয়নের পথের সবচেয়ে বড় বাধা হচ্ছে মালিক সম্প্রদায় এই আন্দোলনকে ভাল চোখে দেখছেন না। এবং যতদূর সম্ভব ট্রেড্ ইউনিয়নকে অগ্রাহ্য করে তাঁরা তাঁদের উৎপাদন ব্যবস্থা চালিয়ে যেতে চাচ্ছেন। এবং এর ফলে শ্রমিকদের সহযোগিতা না পেয়ে পাচ্ছেন শুধু ক্ষুব্ধ অসন্তুষ্ট দায়সারা কাজ। এ ক্ষেত্রে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি

সত্যই ট্রেড্ ইউনিয়নের প্রতিষ্ঠা চান তাহ'লে সর্ব্বাগ্রে প্রয়োজন বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা বা আইন প্রণয়ন করা যাতে মালিকের পক্ষে ইউনিয়নকে অগ্রাহ্য করা সম্ভব না হয়। বাজেটে গভর্ণমেণ্টের প্রস্তাবিত conciliation machinery কি রকম হবে, তার গঠন, অধিকার ও ক্ষমতা সম্বন্ধে আমরা স্পষ্টভাবে জানতে পারলে সুখী হতাম। আশা করি এটা গঠিত হবার আগে তার পূর্ণ পরিকল্পনা পরিষদের সাম্‌নে উপস্থাপিত করা হবে। মোটের উপর আমার বক্তব্য এই—মালিকের উপর জাতীয় সরকারের আরও বেশী কর্ত্তৃত্ব যদি স্থাপিত না হয়, শুধু মৌখিক উপদেশে শ্রমিকদের সহযোগিতা লাভ বা উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি সম্ভব হবে না।

বণ্টন বা distribution সম্বন্ধে আমার দ্বিতীয় বক্তব্য এই—ব্রিটিশ গভর্ণমেণ্টের আমল থেকে আমাদের দেশের শাসনযন্ত্র অত্যন্ত top-heavy ও অকারণ বাহুল্যময় হয়ে রয়েছে। যার ফলে শাসনকাজে এতদিন red-tapismই শুধু প্রশ্রয় পেয়ে এসেছে এবং কাজের চেয়ে অকাজই বেশী হয়েছে। ফলে সত্যিকারের কাজের চেয়ে establishmentএর খরচেই আমরা দেউলিয়া হয়ে গিয়েছি। পুলিশ, কোর্ট, সিভিল সার্ভিসএর ব্যয়ভার বহন করতে গিয়ে শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, আহার আমাদের চিরদিনই অকুলান হয়েছে। আজকে স্বাধীন দেশের বাজেট রচনা করতে গিয়ে এদিকে দৃষ্টি দেওয়া একান্ত প্রয়োজন ছিল। অন্ততঃ অবান্তর আর অকারণ ব্যয় কি কোরে সঙ্কুচিত কোরে আনা যায় সে সম্বন্ধে একটি Enquiry Committee অবিলম্বে গঠিত হওয়া উচিত ছিল। তার ফলে আমরা দেখ্‌তে পেতাম যে, যে পরিমাণ অর্থের সাশ্রয় সেদিক থেকে হ'তে পার্‌বে সেটা এই দরিদ্র দেশের পক্ষে উপেক্ষণীয় নয়।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আর একটি কথা উল্লেখ ক'র্‌ব। দেশের জনসাধারণের মুখের দিকে তাকিয়ে গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিম্নতম কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন বৃদ্ধির ন্যায়সঙ্গত দাবী আপাততঃ প্রত্যাহার করবার অনুরোধ অর্থসচিব মহাশয় জানিয়েছেন। কিন্তু এ ক্ষেত্রে দরিদ্র কর্ম্মচারীদের দৃষ্টি যখন শাসনতন্ত্রের উপরিওয়ালাদের দিকে পড়বে তখন তাদের সপ্রশ্ন ও সকৌতুক দৃষ্টির উত্তরে গভর্ণমেণ্টের খুব কিছু বল্‌বার থাক্‌বে কি? তারা যদি প্রশ্ন করে, I.C.S. গোষ্ঠীর সহস্রাধিক বেতনের উপরেও কেন বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রচুর পরিমাণে ভাতার ব্যবস্থা করতে কুণ্ঠিত হন্ না, যে ভাতা কমান বাড়ান সম্পূর্ণ তাঁদেরই হাতে? যেমন নিম্নপদস্থ কর্ম্মচারীদের বেশী বেতন দাবী না করতে অনুরোধ করেছেন, ঠিক তেম্‌নি উপরস্থ কর্ম্মচারীদের যাতে স্বেচ্ছায় তাদের অসঙ্গত বেতন কিছুটা কমিয়ে নেন, সে অনুরোধ করতেই বা অর্থসচিব মহাশয় কেন দ্বিধা করছেন? একথা ঠিক, এভাবে যে টাকা বাঁচবে তাতেও হয়ত নিম্নস্থ কর্ম্মচারীদের সমস্ত দাবী মিটবে না। তবুও তাতে তাদের কাছে consideration বা ত্যাগ দাবী করার অধিকার গভর্ণমেণ্টের হবে।

এর পরে জাতি গঠন সম্বন্ধে দু-একটা কথা বলতে চাই। এবারকার বাজেটে শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, কৃষি ইত্যাদি উন্নতির কাজে অন্যান্য বৎসরের তুলনায় কিছু বেশী টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে এবং কংগ্রেস গভর্ণমেণ্টের বাজেটে তা খুবই স্বাভাবিক। তবু কেবলই মনে হয় প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় তা কতটুকু এবং সরকারের মোট আয়-ব্যয়ের তুলনায়ই বা কতটুকু? বস্তিবাসিন্দা ও নিম্ন মধ্যবিত্ত শ্রেণীর লোকদের বাসস্থানের ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে তা হাস্যকর রকমে কম।

প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা সমগ্র প্রদেশে যত শীঘ্র সম্ভব প্রচলিত করবার কোন সুনির্দ্দিষ্ট scheme আমরা পাইনি। নারীশিক্ষার জন্য আরো বেশী টাকার বরাদ্দ হলে সুখী হতাম। বিশেষ ক'রে ছাত্রীদের থাকার হোষ্টেলের জন্য ব্যবস্থা করার প্রয়োজনের প্রতি গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি অনেক দিন থেকে আকর্ষণ করা হচ্ছে। কিন্তু এ বিষয়েও বিশেষ কোন কিছু করা হয়নি। Community kitchenএর পরিকল্পনার জন্য নারীসাধারণের পক্ষ থেকে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে আমি ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি। আশা করি অবিলম্বে এ পরিকল্পনা কার্য্যকরী হতে পারবে।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আর একটা ব্যাপারে আমি অর্থসচিব মহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চাই। স্বাধীন দেশের এই বাজেটে জেলের উন্নতির কোন ব্যবস্থাই হয়নি। বর্ত্তমানে বাংলার জেল সেই গতানুগতিক ধারায় অপরাধীদের নরককুণ্ডে ফেলে রাখার আদর্শ নিয়েই চলেছে। এর আমূল পরিবর্ত্তন দরকার। এ সম্বন্ধে আমরা অনেকেই যারা দীর্ঘদিন জেলে কাটিয়ে আজ এই আইন সভায় এসে বসেছি, আমাদের অনেক কিছু বলার আছে, করার আছে। আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে অনুরোধ করব যেন আমাদের সহযোগিতায় জেল উন্নতির ব্যবস্থা অবিলম্বে গ্রহণ করা হয় ও তার জন্য যদি কিছু ব্যয় বৃদ্ধি হয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয় যেন তাতে কুণ্ঠিত না হন।

এই বাজেটে রাজনৈতিক কারণে নির্যাতিত ব্যক্তিদের সাহায্য করা সম্বন্ধেও কোন সুস্পষ্ট পরিকল্পনা দেয়া হয়নি। অথচ ব্যাপারটা ফেলে রাখবার মত মোটেই নয়। বিশেষ ক'রে এমন অনেক নির্যাতিত ব্যক্তি রয়েছেন যাঁদের সাহায্য করা অবিলম্বে প্রয়োজন। এই প্রসঙ্গে আরো বলতে চাই—এই সব রাজনৈতিক নির্যাতিত কর্মীদের মধ্যে এমন অনেক উপযুক্ত লোক আছেন যাঁদের দেশের শাসন-ব্যবস্থা পরিচালনার কাজে গ্রহণ করলে দেশ ও গভর্ণমেন্ট উভয়েই লাভবান হবে। বিশেষ ক'রে জাতিগঠনমূলক কাজে এ শ্রেণীর কর্মীদের সাহায্য অধিক মাত্রায় নেয়া উচিত। কারণ জনসাধারণের সঙ্গে কাজ করবার, তাদের অভাব-অভিযোগ উপলব্ধি করবার এবং এই সব কাজে জনসাধারণের সক্রিয় সহযোগিতা (যে সক্রিয় সহযোগিতা গঠনমূলক কাজকে সফল ক'রে তোলার জন্য অত্যাবশ্যক) তা অর্জন করবার ক্ষমতা এদের মধ্যেই পাওয়া সম্ভব।

আমার বক্তব্য আর বাড়াতে চাই না। পরিশেষে অর্থসচিব মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করব জনকল্যাণমূলক ও জাতিগঠনমূলক কাজের জন্য যে সামান্য ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে সেটুকু ঠিকভাবে কার্যকরী করবার দিকে যেন তিনি তীক্ষ্ণ দৃষ্টি রাখেন, সেখানে অপব্যয় যেন আর না হয়। অতীতে এ বিষয়ে আমাদের অভিজ্ঞতা তিক্ত। Red-tapism, Bureaucratic মনোভাব আর আন্তরিকতার অভাবে অনেক ভাল ভাল স্কীমও ব্যর্থ হতে আমরা দেখেছি। তার পুনরাবৃত্তি অন্ততঃ কংগ্রেস আমলে আমরা অথবা জনসাধারণ কেউই সহ্য করতে রাজি নই।

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with my colleague and speakers from other parts of the House I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister on his presentation of the budget As my colleague said in his speech yesterday, this province depends on commerce, industry and trade for more than 75 per cent of the total revenue of the province and for the greater proportion of that 75 per cent. the province is dependent on the jute industry. I was glad to see, therefore, that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister recognises the importance of jute to the province. The prosperity of this major interest of this province has been threatened by the sources of its raw materials having been territorially severed from the manufacturing centres by partition. It is sincerely to be hoped that the friendly commercial relations which the Hon'ble Minister referred to in his speech will be established between East and West Bengal and the trade barriers which are hampering the free flow of jute from East to West Bengal will be removed. I can assure the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that he will have the fullest co-operation of the Jute Industry in anything he does to bring about an understanding between East and West Bengal in order to make jute freely available to the manufacturing side of the industry in this province. As the Hon'ble Minister rightly pointed out, however, should it be impossible to establish friendly commercial relations between East and West Bengal, it may be necessary to meet the raw material requirements of the Jute Mills by increased production in Assam, Orissa and Bihar by removing the existing restrictions of the acreage of jute. With this possibility before us, I would be almost inclined to criticise the grant under the Agricultural head as being too meagre to provide any means for increased production of jute in the province, except that I share the hope of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that a friendly arrangement will yet be arrived at with regard to jute to the benefit of all concerned. While I make this slight criticism about the grant under Agriculture appearing to be too meagre, a careful examination of other figures shows considerable provision for irrigation projects of development which are necessary and in many cases precede the enhancement of the acreage under productive cultivation.

In my opinion, however, there is no use in trying to promote an understanding between East and West Bengal or considering the increase in production of jute from West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Bihar, if proper distribution of manufactured goods to consuming countries is not allowed. I do not know if the Hon'ble Minister is aware of the chaotic position the Jute Industry is now in due to bungling by the Centre in the application of the

"Quota" system and the distribution of jute goods throughout the world. I might say that there is a grave crisis in the Jute Industry today, and had it not been for the opportnity I have of speaking on this subject today I would have raised the matter by an adjournment motion to draw the attention of the House to this matter of public importance so vital to the whole finances of the province. The Commerce Department of the Government of India, after calling for applications for quotas covering the period January-June 1948 and after receiving these applications by the thousand, have arbitrarily decided who shall have the right to export and have pushed aside firms who have handled the business of exporting jute goods from Calcutta for years and have awarded quotas to anyone and everyone from all over India who have no experience ot this trade.

Sir, I can quote you from letters which have been received. Here is one from Delhi: "I furnish below the quotations for the various export licences that are immediately available......A commission of Rs. 2-8 per ton should be earmarked for me as being extra to the above quotations. Kindly telegraph me if you are interested in any of these licences".

From Bombay: "The party shows willingness to dispose of the quota on 8 per cent. C.I.F. quotations."

From Bombay: "offering quotas" An advertisement offering quotas.

I can cite from personal experience that one shipper had goods lying in stock, 700 tons, for South America, and he has been given quota for 40 tons. If these goods of 700 tons had been allotted to other countries we would have understood it. Seven hundred tons are lying for two solid years and today shippers have been handed only 40 tons. The position is, as I have said, chaotic. I would ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister if he has ever been consulted, or his Government has ever been consulted, with regard to the application of this quota system, because I can assure this House through you, Sir, that the Jute Industry has never been consulted. We have never been told how these quotas have been arrived at and how distributions have been made to different parts of the world. I can quote from my own personal experience. I was in New York in July 1946. I was asked to attend a meeting of Burlap Association of America, and the Bag Manufacturers' Assocition I was asked to explain why 15,000 tons of goods had only been given when their requirements were in the region of 26,000 tons. After strong representation it was changed to 21,000 tons. I could not tell how even 21,000 had been arrived at. I sent a telegram to the Chairman of the Association here to find out if he could tell me how the quota had been arrived at. The trade representative of the Government of India was also asked how the quota had been arrived at, but he could not tell me. The Canadian people also asked me if it would pay them to send a representative to Calcutta to find out how their quota had been arrived at and how they could get more jute goods. Nobody has been told. We have not been told. Everything is chaotic, and the people out of which this province makes money are all being embarrassed in every way. As I said, in this distribution of quotas Calcutta, the centre of the Jute Industry, has been entirely ignored and her trade has been cut by four-fifths, with the result that the benefit goes to persons who have no connection with this province, pay no income-tax to this province and who have no experience in the business whatsoever.

Countries abroad are clamouring for jute goods and more jute goods and if the demand is not met then these countries will definitely be compelled to go over to substitutes with possible permanent damage to the Jute Industry of the province. I can definitely tell the Hon'ble Minister and this House that this latest scheme and distribution of quotas has been introduced despite the unanimous demand of shippers and mills long established in this business for the abolition of export control. All sections of the business life of this province have been affected by the Government

of India's interference with this vital industry of Bengal—Banking, Shipping, Insurance, Trading, and finally the manufacturing side of the Industry itself. To illustrate the position, I quote from a telegram just received by the Chairman of the Indian Jute Mills Association, which incidentally is one of the Associations which my colleague and myself represent, from which the Hon'ble Minister and this House will get some idea of what the position is: "Our Association cabling Delhi List of Shippers who have January-June commitments here with urgent request that they be granted quotas enabling them fulfil their contracts stop Collapse of market will cause heavy losses here and even heavier losses to Calcutta Shippers through cancellations of high prices contracts stop". I would like members to listen to this part of the telegram "Irresponsible quota policy of your Government has almost irreparably damaged industry which was already feeling effects of substitution stop. Two of the large Bag Manufacturers have suspended sale of Burlap Bags and are pushing substitute materials. Believe others will follow stop Larger consumers also arranging necessary machinery for substitution at any cost to be free of misguided and harassing interference with continuity of supplies".

Sir, people in this province and members in this House have laughed before at the bogey of substitutes I would ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister and members to note that there is no question of prices being raised in this telegram with regard to substitute, merely the fact that American buyers cannot get jute goods because of the control which is working to the detriment not only of the whole Jute Industry but to the detriment of this province in particular. The principle of dissemination of genuine and reliable information is wholeheartedly supported but it appears to me that a grant of Rs 40,000 seems to me to be utterly inadequate for the production of a Labour Journal of this nature, even on a monthly basis On a very rough estimate I think that approximately 500,000 free copies would have to be distributed monthly and I cannot possibly see how Rs. 40,000 will cover the cost of this work.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has explained the revised basis on which the Province's share of income-tax collection will be allotted by the Centre as the result of an abandonment of the conditions laid down by the Niemeyer Award. It is understood that the revenue available from this source has this year been reduced by a little less than half by the Government of India. I take this opportunity of expressing acute concern at the gross injustice which it is apparently intended to impose on this province. It is hoped that no effort will be spared to present the unquestionable justification of this province's case with the Central Government. It is urged that the Hon'ble Minister should inform the House more fully of the exchanges which have occurred in the negotiations with the Centre and should make available details of further developments as soon as they arise.

In his task which the Hon'ble Finance Minister has before him of improving the finances of the Province and of raising the standard of living of her people. I am sure he will have support of all members of this House.

Sri CHARU CHANDRA BHANDARI: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহাশয়, বাজেটের এই আলোচনায় যোগ দিবার ইচ্ছা আমার ছিল না। কিন্তু কয়েকটি প্রয়োজনীয় বিষয় সম্পর্কে সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ না করিলে আমার কর্তব্যের ত্রুটি হইবে, এই বিবেচনায় আমি এই আলোচনায় অংশ গ্রহণ করিতেছি।

যদিও বাজেটে ওয়ার্ধা পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী বনিয়াদী শিক্ষা প্রবর্তনের জন্য ১১ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে, তথাপি সরকারের সাম্প্রতিক সিদ্ধান্ত হইতে বুঝা যাইতেছে যে বনিয়াদী শিক্ষা-পরিকল্পনাকে ধামাচাপা দিবারই ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে। পূর্ববর্তী মন্ত্রী-সভা নয়ী তালিমী সংঘের সহিত পরামর্শক্রমে বনিয়াদী শিক্ষা-পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করেন। বনিয়াদী শিক্ষাপ্রণালীতে অভিজ্ঞ শিক্ষাব্রতী ব্যক্তিগণকে লইয়া

একটি শক্তিশালী উপদেষ্টা কমিটি গঠন করা হয় ও বনিয়াদী বিদ্যালয় খুলিবার উদ্দেশ্যে মেদিনীপুর জেলার বলরামপুর ট্রেণিং কেন্দ্রে বনিয়াদী শিক্ষক ট্রেণিংএর জন্য শিক্ষার্থিগণকে ট্রেণিং দেওয়া হইতেছে। এমতাবস্থায় এখন স্থির করা হইল যে বনিয়াদী শিক্ষা-পরিকল্পনা ভাল কি মন্দ পরীক্ষা করিয়া দেখা হউক— উহার অর্থনৈতিক দিক ভালভাবে বিবেচনা করা হউক। অতঃপর বনিয়াদী শিক্ষা সম্পর্কে কিংকর্ত্তব্য স্থির করা যাইবে। ইহা ধামাচাপা দেওয়ার নামান্তর নয় কি?

বনিয়াদী শিক্ষাপ্রণালী কংগ্রেস কর্ত্তৃক গৃহীত শিক্ষানীতি। ইহার জন্য নয়ী তালিমী সংঘ গঠিত হয়। নিখিল-ভারত কাটুনী সংঘ, নিখিল-ভারত পল্লী শিল্প সংঘ, হরিজন সেবক সংঘের ন্যায় নয়ী তালিমী সংঘ কংগ্রেসের অন্তর্ভুক্ত autonomous body বা স্বায়ত্ত সংস্থা। এরূপ অবস্থায় এখন এই বিচারের প্রশ্ন তোলা আর খদ্দর ভাল কি মন্দ, পল্লী শিল্পের উন্নয়ন ভাল কি মন্দ, এই বিচার কোন কংগ্রেসীর পক্ষে করিতে যাওয়া সমান। বনিয়াদী শিক্ষা সুপ্রতিষ্ঠিত হইয়া চলিতে থাকাকালে ব্যয়ের দিক হইতে উহা আত্মনির্ভরশীল হওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয়। কিন্তু শিক্ষক ট্রেণিংএর কাজে বা বনিয়াদী বিদ্যালয়ের প্রথম অবস্থায় তাহা আশা করা বৃথা। সর্ব্বোপরি বিভাগীয় কর্ম্মচারীদের উপর তদন্তের ভারার্পণ উদ্বেগজনক। যাঁহারা প্রচলিত শিক্ষা-পদ্ধতির গোঁড়া অনুরক্ত, নয়ী তালিমী সংঘের পরিবর্ত্তে তাঁহাদিগকে দিয়া এই বিপ্লবাত্মক শিক্ষা-পদ্ধতির পরিকল্পনার বিচার করিতে দেওয়ার অর্থ কি?

অন্যান্য প্রদেশে বনিয়াদী শিক্ষা প্রবর্ত্তনের ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে। বিহার প্রদেশে ইহা অভাবনীয় সফলতা অর্জ্জন করিয়াছে এবং জাতিবর্ণনির্বিশেষে, দরিদ্র ও অসহায় জনসাধারণের মধ্যে ব্যাপক শিক্ষার পথ উন্মুক্ত করিয়াছে। এই অবস্থায় মন্ত্রী-সভা কংগ্রেসের গৃহীত শিক্ষানীতি তথা মহাত্মা গান্ধীর স্বপ্নকে সফল করিবার প্রচেষ্টায় দ্বিধাবোধ না করেন ইহা আমার বিনীত নিবেদন।

চা'লকলগুলি এ যাবৎ সরবরাহ বিভাগকে ৬০ সের ধানে ৪০ সের হিসাবে চাউল দিয়া আসিয়াছে। তাহা সত্ত্বেও তাহারা কিছুদিন পূর্ব্বে এই আপত্তি করে যে কয়েক প্রকার ধানে ৪০ সের অপেক্ষা কম চাউল উৎপন্ন হয়। তখন তাহাদের সম্মতিক্রমে এরূপ স্থির হয় যে আমার পর্য্যবেক্ষণে ডায়মণ্ড হারবার খাদি-মন্দির আশ্রমে ঢেঁকিতে ধান ভানিয়া পরীক্ষা করা হইবে এবং পরীক্ষার ফল তাহারা মানিয়া লইবে। তদনুসারে কয়েক প্রকারের ধান পরীক্ষা করা হয়। কলমা নামক যে ধানে বেশী আপত্তি সেই ধানের ৬০ সের ধানে ১২ ছটাক ভাঙ্গা চাউল সমেত ৪২৷৷০ সের ভাল পালিশওয়ালা চাউল উৎপন্ন হয়। কিন্তু ঢেঁকির চাউলে জলীয় ভাগ (moisture) অপেক্ষাকৃত বেশী থাকিলে কলের চাউল অপেক্ষা ওজন বেশী হইতে পারে, এই বিবেচনায় সরবরাহ বিভাগের বিশেষজ্ঞ পরীক্ষকের দ্বারা বৈজ্ঞানিক উপায়ে পরীক্ষা করাইয়া অতিরিক্ত (moisture) ইত্যাদির দরুণ ওজন বাদ দিয়াও প্রায় ৪১ সের চাউল দাঁড়ায়। এই অবস্থায় চাউলকলওয়ালাদিগকে নীরব হইতে হয়। কিন্তু এখন তাহাদের নিকট হইতে ৪০ সেরের পরিবর্ত্তে ৩৮ সের হিসাবে চাউল লইবার ব্যবস্থা হইল। ঐ সকল ধান্য বৎসরে অল্পাধিক ৪ লক্ষ টন বা ১ কোটী মণ সংগৃহীত হইবার কথা। এই অবস্থায় প্রতি মণে এক সের হিসাবে ২৷৷০ আড়াই লক্ষ মণ বাড়তি চাউল চাউলকলগুলি আত্মসাৎ করিবে। চাউলকলওয়ালারা ঐ চাউল লইয়া কি করিবে? ঐ চাউল লইয়া কিরূপ বিরাট চোরাকারবারের সৃষ্টি হইবে তাহা সহজেই অনুমেয়। উপরন্তু সরকারের আর্থিক ক্ষতির পরিমাণ যে কিরূপ বিরাট হইবে, তাহাও অনুমান করা সহজ। মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয় ঘরে আগুন লাগার উপমা দিয়াছেন। ঐ উপমার প্রশ্ন উঠে না। বহু কলওয়ালা ৪০ সের চাউল দিয়া কাজ করিতে রাজী ছিল এবং কাজও করিতেছিল। পশ্চিম বঙ্গে যে চা'লকল আছে তাহার অর্দ্ধেকের মত সম্পূর্ণভাবে চালাইলে সরবরাহ বিভাগের কাজ চলিয়া যাইতে পারে। সংকটের সম্ভাবনা থাকিলেও সরকার requisition করিয়া কল নিজ হাতে লইবার ব্যবস্থা করিতে পারিতেন; তথাপি এরূপ বিরাট ক্ষতিস্বীকার করা এবং এরূপ বিরাট চোরাকারবারের সুযোগ দেওয়া সমীচীন হয় নাই—ইহা আমি বিনয়ের সহিত নিবেদন করিতেছি।

Procurement অঞ্চল (সংগ্রহ অঞ্চল) হইতে ধান-চাল smuggled (বে-আইনী চালান) হওয়া ভালভাবে বন্ধ করিতে না পারিলে আশানুরূপ procurement হওয়া সম্ভব নয়। পূর্ব্ব অভিজ্ঞতা হইতে দেখা গিয়াছে যে সংগ্রহ অঞ্চল হইতে বে-আইনী চালান হওয়া ও চোরাকারবার চলা ধান-চাল সংগ্রহের পক্ষে প্রধান অন্তরায়। কারণ এরূপ বে-আইনী চালান হইতে থাকিলে সংগ্রহ অঞ্চলে নিয়ন্ত্রিত মূল্যে ধান-চাল পাওয়া সম্ভব হয় না। আজকাল কলিকাতার রাস্তায় অবাধোন্মুক্তভাবে যে চাউল চোরাকারবারীদের

বিক্রয় হইতেছে, তাহার অধিকাংশই সংগ্রহ-অঞ্চল হইতে বে-আইনী চালান হইয়া আসিতেছে। তাহাতে কিছু লোকের কষ্টের কিছু লাঘব হইতে পারে সত্য, কিন্তু স্মরণ রাখা উচিত যে কোন সংগ্রহ-অঞ্চল হইতে এরূপ অবৈধ চালান প্রতি ২০ মণ চালের দ্বারা ঐ সংগ্রহ-অঞ্চলে ২০ শত মণ ধান-চাউল সংগ্রহ বন্ধ হইতেছে। Blackmarketing আইনের কঠোর বিধান ঐ সব ক্ষেত্রে কঠোরভাবে প্রয়োগ করিলে তবে বে-আইনী চালান ও চোরাকারবার কার্য্যকরীভাবে বন্ধ করা সম্ভব, নচেৎ নহে। কিন্তু Blackmarketing Bill ইতিপূর্ব্বে এই পরিষদ কর্ত্তৃক পাশ করা হইলেও এখনও তাহা আইনে পরিণত হয় নাই। আশা করি সরকার অবিলম্বে তাহা করিবার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

আর একটি প্রয়োজনীয় বিষয়ের উল্লেখ এই সূত্রে করা আবশ্যক। পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী মন্ত্রী-সভার আমলে চোরাকারবার ও খাদ্যভেজাল ব্যাপারে বহু ধরপাকড় হয়। কিন্তু উপযুক্ত আইনের অভাবে অনেক ক্ষেত্রে সমুচিত শাস্তি বিধানের জন্য আবশ্যকীয় ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বনে অসুবিধা হইতেছিল। তাই Blackmarketing আইনে restrospective effect এর বিধান করা হয় এবং খাদ্যভেজাল (Food Adulteration) আইনের আবশ্যকীয় সংশোধনের জন্য পাণ্ডুলিপি প্রস্তুত করা হয় ও পরিষদের এই অধিবেশনে তাহা পেশ ও আইনে পরিণত করিবার কথা থাকে। এইদিকে মন্ত্রী-সভার দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতে চাই। চোরাকারবার ও খাদ্যভেজাল সম্পর্কে এই দুইটি আইনের বিশেষ প্রয়োজন। কারণ ইহার কঠোর প্রয়োগ না হইলে নিয়ন্ত্রণপ্রথা সুষ্ঠুভাবে পরিচালনা করা সম্ভব নয়। উপরন্তু ইহা না হইলে পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী ধরপাকড়ের কেসগুলির মধ্যে অন্ততঃ কয়েকটি কেসে সুব্যবস্থা হইতে পারিবে না এবং এই সম্পর্কে প্রেসের ও দেশের জনসাধারণের মনে যে নিরাশা ও সন্দেহের ভাব জাগিয়াছে তাহাও দূর হইবে না।

জমিদারী প্রথা বিলোপের প্রাথমিক ব্যয়স্বরূপ ১০ লক্ষ টাকা বাজেটে বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। সারা প্রদেশে জমিদারী প্রথা বিলোপের কার্য্য সম্পূর্ণ করিতে কয়েক বৎসর সময় লাগিবে মনে হইতেছে। কিন্তু ইতিমধ্যে একটি সমস্যা জটিল হইয়া উঠিয়াছে তাহা হইতেছে ভাগচাষী সমস্যা। এজন্য অবিলম্বেই ভাগ-চাষীর স্বত্ব স্বীকার করিয়া ও তাহার অন্যান্য আবশ্যকীয় সুবিধা ও তাহার অভাব অভিযোগের প্রতিকার-কল্পে আইন প্রণয়ন করা অত্যাবশ্যক। জমিদারী প্রথা বিলোপের অপেক্ষায় এ সম্পর্কে কিছু না করিয়া থাকা উচিত হইবে না। ভাগচাষীরা সজাগ হইয়া মালিকগণের বে-আইনী কার্য্যকলাপ ও শোষণের প্রতিকার-কল্পে আন্দোলন করিতে সুরু করিয়াছে বলিয়া মালিকগণ অনেক ক্ষেত্রে কৌশলে ও অপকৌশলে তাহাদের উপর নানারূপ অত্যাচার করিতেছে, অনেক ক্ষেত্রে তাহাদিগকে দেওয়ানী ও ফৌজদারী আদালতের মিথ্যা মামলার চক্রে ফেলিয়া তাহাদিগকে তাহাদের চাষ করা জমির ফসল হইতে বঞ্চিত করিতেছে—arbitrarily তাহাদিগকে জমি হইতে তাড়াইয়া দিতেছে। দেশের মেরুদণ্ড যাহারা, তাহাদের উপর এই অত্যাচার অসহনীয়। বাজেট অধিবেশনে ভাগচাষ নিয়ন্ত্রণ সম্পর্কীয় বিল আনিবার কথা হইয়াছিল। ভাগচাষীর স্বার্থরক্ষাকল্পে অবিলম্বে আইন না করিলে ভবিষ্যতে ভীষণ বিভ্রাট বাধিবার সম্ভাবনা রহিয়াছে। স্বাধীনতালাভের সঙ্গে দরিদ্র ও অসহায়ের হিতকামী গভর্ণমেণ্ট আসিয়াছে তাহা প্রমাণ করিবার দিন উপস্থিত। তাই এইদিকে সরকারের বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতে চাই।

Sri RATANLAL BRAHMIN: Hum Darjeeling ke taraf sey kuch bolna chahtey ham. Darjeeling ke admion ke liey budget men kuch bandobust naheen kiya giya hai Hum logon ka Darjeeling sahar men kamsaykum 40 hazar admi hai our wahan sirf ek tho college hai. Perhneywala larka 3 hazar sey ziada hai wahan kaie high school ka bandobast honachahiey. Iskey liey thora dhiyan is taraf dena chahiey. Saheb logan ka bara bara college hai, hum hindusthani logan ke ek bhi college naheen hai. Wah shwasthya ka jakah hai, is hey sahab logan ney Darjeeling men college kiya hai. Ap log agar wahan colege karenge to yahan ke larkon ka tandrusti bhi acha hoga, am hum logan ka bhi subista hoga, keon ke yahan akar parhna hum logan ke liey bahut takleef hota hai. Nepali, Bhotia aur Lepcha log jo hain wah 10 per cent. pass karkey nekaltai hain magar wah bhi pass karkey baithey ham. Un longo ki leya naukari ka bandobust nahi hai. Pahar ke basinda ko naukari ke liye competition karna parta hai jo wo log nahi kar saktay Apko is taraf dhiyan, aur drishty dena chahiey.

Zamin men khali sirkar ka khas mahal hai. Khas mahal men Zamin wala ka koie hak naheen hai, jab chanhey wah cheen lesaktey hain, iska dar laga rahta hai, keonke serf ek baras ka bese hota hai.

Gaey ke doodh ke liey bhi koie achá bandobust naheen hosakta ha keonke dana ghas ke saman naheen hai. Ghas katney ka jagah nahee milta hai, sab taraf cha bagan hai. Is liey is taraf bhi apko nazar daln ke liey, araz karte hain. Cha bagan ka halat sub sey khaternak hai. L lakh our 20 hazar admi khali cha bagan men kam kurtey hain. Marad k 8 ana aur aurat ko 7 ana roz milta hai. Chotay tarkon ko kam umer me kam me jana purta hai. .Is ka taraf bhi apko dhiyan dena ka zarurat ha Sab koie boltey hain ke swaraj huwa magar kuch maloom naheen hot hai, keon ke cha bagan ke malik logon ka jo purana zulum tha, wah e chatakh bhi kum naheen huwa hai. British Shahan shahiat ke zamane men jo takleef tha abhi bhi sab kuch waisa hi hai. Abhi Hindustar sirkar huwa hai, is liey un loganka to kuch subista hona chahiey. Apko tarf nazar karna chahiey. Darjeeling men jahan cha bagan hai sirkar k khazana bohut kam hai waste land bolkey 4 ana our 8 ana aikar khasan laga huwa hai. Aungraz raj tha and aungraz malik tha, is liey yah sa huwa hai, agar ap wahan ziada tax lageinge to bohat amdani hosakt hai. Isi amdani our cha bagan nationalise kerke school, college bananek kharach mil sakta hai. Is taraf ap loga ko nazar dena chahiye.

Sri SIBNATH BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, মাননীয় অর্থসচি মহাশয় যে বাজেট পেশ করেছেন তার জন্য অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। এটা ভাল বাজেট, careful বাজে cautious বাজেট, কিন্তু orthodox বাজেট। Vision কই। একে জনগণের সাধারণের, শ্রমিক ও কৃষকের, কিষাণ-মজদুর-প্রজারাজের বাজেট বলে নেবো কি ক'রে সেটাই হচ্ছে কষ্টি পাথর যাতে এই বাজেট যাচাই করতে চাই। বিদ্যুৎ জাতীয়করণের আশ্বাস Government থেকে দেওয় হয়েছে; দামোদর পরিকল্পনা, মোর পরিকল্পনা, স্ত্রীশিক্ষা, তপশীলীদের শিক্ষার জন্য বেশী ব্যয় বরাদ্দ ম্যালেরিয়া ও অনুন্নতদের জন্য ব্যয় বরাদ্দ ইত্যাদি অনেক ব্যবস্থা আশা ও আনন্দের কথা। বিশেষ ক' মহাত্মা গান্ধীর আদর্শ ঘোষণা, যেটা অর্থসচিব মহাশয় করেছেন—

"Let us also invoke the blessings of the Father of the Nation, Mahatm Gandhi, in all our endeavours to build up a society in which there will b no poverty, no feeling of high class and low class; a society in whose makin the common man will have an effective voice."

এই কথাটা বলেছেন, এই ঘোষণা করেছেন। তার জন্য সত্যিই অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। কিন্তু কয়েকটা কিন্ আছে।

প্রথম বিদ্যুৎ জাতীয়করণের ব্যাপার; এটা সমস্ত বাংলায় নয় কেন, শুধু সামান্য একটু জায়গা কেন? এবং তার জন্য যে পরিমাণ টাকা দেওয়ার কথা শুনছি, সেই old, পুরাণো rotte machinery'র জন্য, একটা boiler যেটা pressure সহ্য করতে পারবে না, ত কেনবার জন্য এত টাকা দেওয়া কেন? আশা করি অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এ বিষয়ে খুব অভিজ্ঞ। কেনবা আগে ভাল ক'রে যাচাই করে দেখবেন, এত দামে যেন না কেনেন, এবং সমস্ত বাংলাদেশে যাতে বিদ্যু সরবরাহটা যাতে নিতে পারেন অন্ততঃ সেটা করবেন। Nationalisation of industrie সম্বন্ধে অর্থসচিব মহাশয় যা বলেছেন, দেখা গেল নানান রকমের ওজোর করেছেন, বড় বড়গুলি All India ব্যাপার; ছোটখাটোগুলি আমরা করতে পারি। যেগুলি আছে সেগুলি ভালভাবে চালানোর কথা; কিন্তু তাঁরা তা বলেননি। Telephone nationalise হয়েছে সেটা আমাদের লজ্জার বিষয় হয়েছে। অন্যান্য জায়গায় nationaliseএর কথা বলতে গেলে বলে ঐ Telephoneএর মত হবে তো আশা করি অর্থসচিব মহাশয় Telephoneটা যাতে ভালভাবে চলে সে বিষয়ে ব্যবস্থা করবেন। অর্থসচিব মহাশয় টাকা দিলেও আবার অন্য Minister তা করবেন। আসল ব্যাপার হচ্ছে যে, machineryগুলি রয়েছে; তাতে যখন exchangeকে ডাকা যায় তখন respond করে না। তার জন্য নূতন machinery দরকার।

তারপরে চটকল। এটা nationalise হচ্ছে না কেন? দামোদর projectএর জন্য ৫৫ কোটী টাকা হয়েছে, এর জন্য ২৫ কোটী টাকা মাত্র। War yearsএর মধ্যে ছয় বৎসরে এঁরা ৫০ কোটী টাকা লাভ করেছেন। এটা nationalise করার কথা অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের মনে কেন আসেনি জানি না; না মনে

আশঙ্কা ও ভয় বোধ করছেন। তিনি বুঝতে পারছেন না। একখানা ছোট পুস্তিকা দেখলাম, K. D. Jalan, বাগমল, তাঁরা এই nationalisationএর কথা লিখেছেন; অনেক বড় বড় হাতি, ঘোড়া তল হয়ে গিয়েছে, K. D. Jalan কি বোঝাবেন জানি না। যাই হোক্, এই চটকলের ব্যাপারটা বিশেষ ক'রে খুব ভাবা দরকার। Walker সাহেব যা বলেছেন সত্যি কথা, substitute নাই, এটা একেবারে নেহাৎ অমূলক নয়। আজকে যে অবস্থা হয়েছে, আমাদের Jute-growing থেকে jute manufacture পর্যন্ত সমস্ত জিনিষই ভাবতে হবে। দশ বৎসর আগে Jute Enquiry Committeeতে আমি nationalisationএর কথা বলেছিলাম। আজ Tribunal হয়েছে, সেখানেও আমরা আলোচনা করেছি। অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এদিকে একটু দৃষ্টি দিন। এটা Electric nationalise করার চেয়ে অনেক সোজা ব্যাপার। Dundee থেকে সাতশো technician এসে এখানে জুটমিল চালাচ্ছে। এজন্য technicianএর অভাব হবে না। বোধ হয় ওয়াকার সাহেবের মত লোককেও nationalised jute mills চালাবার জন্য পাওয়া যাবে, যদি বাংলাদেশে একান্তই সে কাজের উপযুক্ত লোক না থাকে।

তারপর Transportএর জন্য ৪০০ বাস ক'রবেন বোলে স্থির হয়েছে। কিন্তু Inland navigationএর জন্য যে steamerগুলি আছে সেগুলি nationalise করার কথা কেন ভাবছেন না? আমরা মনে করি Burma আমাদের পিছনে পড়ে আছে। কিন্তু তারা আজ এগিয়ে গেছে। তারা Irrawadi Flotilla Companyকে nationalise করেছে। আমাদের অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এ বিষয়ে খুব অভিজ্ঞ; তিনি চেষ্টা করলে এ বিষয়ে অনেক কাজ হ'তে পারে এবং এটা করাও প্রয়োজনীয়। কারণ রেলের উপর যে রকম চাপ বাড়ছে তাতে যদি কিছু relief দিতে হয় খাদ্যের ব্যাপারে, কয়লার ব্যাপারে দেখছি যে রেল পেরে উঠছে না, রেলে যেরকম bottle-neck অবস্থা হয়ে রয়েছে, তাতে Inland Steam Navigation কোম্পানীগুলি যদি canal systemএর ভিতর দিয়ে মাল চলাচলের সাহায্য করে তাহ'লে অনেকটা relief হবে। সেজন্য এগুলিকে জাতীয়করণ করা দরকার। চারশ বাস গভর্ণমেণ্ট থেকে করা হবে, তাও fully nationalised নয়, যাক্, তবু এটা one step forward.

হাওড়ায় কয়েক বছর হ'ল Co-operative Transport Company করা হয়। তারা টাকা তুলে বসে আছে; বাসের permission পাচ্ছে না। বাসের permission নিতে গেলে অনেক তেল লাগাতে হয়, সেটা আপনারা সকলে ভাল কোরেই জানেন—সেইজন্য পাচ্ছে না। চারশ বাস যখন রাস্তায় ছাড়বেন তখন তা থেকে ৪০ খানা Co-operative Societyকে দিন না তাদের সঙ্গে Co-operationএ কাজ করা বিশেষ বাঞ্ছনীয়। সেইজন্য বলতে চাই যে বাজেট সম্পর্কে যে বক্তৃতা দেওয়া হয়েছে তার মধ্যে Co-operationএর স্থান দেখতে পাচ্ছি না। Consumers' Co-operation, Producers' Co-operation, Multipurpose Co-operationএর দ্বারা নূতনভাবে বাংলাদেশকে গড়ে তুলতে হ'লে co-operationএর স্থান যে কত ব্যাপক সে সম্বন্ধে বেশী কথা বোলে অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে লজ্জা দিতে চাই না। এ সব তিনি নিশ্চয়ই জানেন এবং ভালরূপ বোঝেন। তবে আমি আশা করি যে তিনি সে সম্বন্ধে একটু নজর দেবেন।

Damodar Valley Corporation সম্বন্ধে এইটুকু বলব যে এটা Damodar Valley Corporation না কোরে যেমন Tenessey Vally Association আছে সেই রকম একটা প্রতিষ্ঠানের হাতে দেওয়া যায় একেবারে গভর্ণমেণ্টের না দিয়ে তাহ'লে মনে হয় কম ভাল হবে।

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKAR : তাই দেওয়া হয়েছে।

Sri SIBNATH BANERJEE : তা যদি হয়ে থাকে তাহ'লে আর সে সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলব না। Nationalisation না হউক, Socialism না হ'লেও progressive capitalism আশা করতে পারি অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের কাছ থেকে।

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKAR : Gradually socialism হবে।

Sri SIBNATH BANERJEE : পূর্ববঙ্গ থেকে exodus হয়নি বটে, কিন্তু সেখান থেকে evacuation বেশ হচ্ছে। কেউ বলছে ১০ লক্ষ, কেউ বলছে ২০ লক্ষ, তবে তার একটা statistics রাখা এবং সে সম্বন্ধে কিছু করা উচিত। অনেকে এ বিষয়ে সহানুভূতি দেখিয়েছেন, কিন্তু সহানুভূতির পিছনে কিছু টাকা বরাদ্দ করলে খানিকটা আশ্বস্ত হ'তাম। কেবল সহানুভূতিতে হবে না, তার সঙ্গে কিছু টাকা চাই। কিন্তু সেটা দেখতে পাচ্ছি না।

ছোট দু'টো কথা বোলে রাখি হাওড়া সম্বন্ধে। হাওড়ায় এখন যে হাঁসপাতাল আছে সেটা একটা মানুষ মারার কল। অনেক workshop ওখানে আছে এবং বহু লোক injured হয়ে সেখানে যায়, কিন্তু আর ফেরে না। সেখানে এমনই অবস্থা যে কোন ব্যবস্থা করাই সম্ভব নয়। আমি যখন তা নিয়ে বেশী আন্দোলন আরম্ভ করলাম তখন আমাকে তাড়াতাড়ি visitor কোরে দেওয়া হ'ল। কিন্তু তাতেও কোন ফল হয়নি। যে অবস্থা ছিল সেই অবস্থাই রয়েছে। হাওড়ায় Improvement Trust করলে হাঁসপাতালের উপর চাপ কম পড়বে। এখন যে রকম typhoid, pox, cholera, T. B. হচ্ছে তা হয়ত হবে না। হাওড়ার যেরকম অবস্থা তা দেখলে মনে হয় সেটা একটা living hell. সেখানে Improvement Trustএর কথা কত বৎসর ধ'রে যে দেখছি তা জানি না। আসে, আবার চাপা পড়ে যায়। আশা করি এবার সেটা তাড়াতাড়ি হবে।

তারপরে আর একটা কথা এ সম্বন্ধে বোলে রাখি--গান্ধীজীর যে আদর্শ সেটা ঘোষণা করতে যেয়ে অর্থসচিব মহাশয় একটা কথা বলেছেন—

"There will be no poverty, no feeling of high class and low class."

তা যদি হয় তাহ'লে তাঁর সঙ্গে আমি একমত হ'তে পারি না। High class এবং low class থাকবে না এ যদি হয় তাহ'লে বুঝতে পারি; কিন্তু তিনি কিছু আগে বলেছেন--

"It will be our aim to abjure any policy that tends to concentrate wealth in the hands of a fortunate few, thereby making, relatively, the rich richer and the poor poorer."

কিন্তু তাঁর orthodox বাজেটের মধ্যে কিছু দেখতে পাচ্ছি না। Graded Income-tax বা Inheritance tax এই রকম কিছু করলে richকে একটু একটু কমিয়ে আনতেন, আর poorকে একটু একটু বাড়াতে পারতেন। তা না হ'লে বিড়লা, সুরজমল নাগরমল বা ওয়াকার সাহেব কোম্পানী তাঁরা ঐ রকমই থাকবেন। ছিটে ফোঁটা ছেড়ে দিলে পর তাঁরা যে রকম বেড়েছেন---৬ বৎসরে ২৫ লক্ষ থেকে ৫০ কোটী টাকা লাভ করেছেন—এইভাবে যদি রোজ লাভ করতে থাকেন তাহ'লে কোন দম্ভে অর্থসচিব মহাশয় বলেন যে richকে richer হ'তে দেব না, poorকে poorer হ'তে দেব না।

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKAR : সবটুকু পড়ে দেখবেন।

Sri SIBNATH BANERJEE : সবটা পড়েছি, দুবার পড়েছি।

তারপরে জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ। ১১ বছর আমি এখানে আছি। বরাবর শুনে আসছি—ফজলুল হক্ সাহেব বলতেন জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ দরকার, নাজিমুদ্দীন সাহেবও সেই কথা বলেছেন, সুরাবর্দ্দী সাহেব এবং ডাক্তার ঘোষও সেই কথা বলে গেছেন, এবার অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ও সেই কথা বলছেন। তাই মনে হয় যে রকম জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ হয়েছে সেই রকমই হবে। বিশেষতঃ মাত্র ১০ লাখ টাকা আনুষঙ্গিক খরচের জন্য যখন বরাদ্দ করেছেন তখন এই ধারণাই বলবতী হয় যে ফজলুল হক সাহেব বা সুরাবর্দ্দী সাহেবের কাজের মত এরও ফল দাঁড়াবে। তবে অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের এদিকে দৃষ্টি আছে .বলেছেন, তাতেই কিছু আশা। তাহ'লেও এর চেয়ে কিছু বেশী বরাদ্দ হ'লে আশ্বস্ত হওয়া যেত। কৃষকেরা কত দিনে জমি পাবে? যদি বলা হ'ত এত দিনে---২ মাস, ৪ মাস, ৬ মাসের মধ্যে জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ হবে, তাহ'লেও কৃষকদের কিছু আশ্বাস দেওয়া যেত। এ নিয়ে ত ৬ বছরের বেশী time হয়ে গেছে।

এর পরে শ্রমিকদের কথা। Security Bill যখন পাশ হয়েছিল তখন অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এঘরে ছিলেন না। কিন্তু সিকিউরিটি বিলে যাকে Essential serviceএর মধ্যে ফেলা যায়—যেমন খাদ্য বা অন্যান্য ঐরূপ জিনিষ--তাতে strike করা বেআইনী হয়েছে। কিন্তু security of servicesএর বেলা কিছু করা হয়নি। রোজই শুনি ছাঁটাই হবে। চটকল মালিকেরা ত করেনই, বাংলা সরকারও মাঝে মাঝে হুমকী দেন। কোন জায়গায়ই security of servicesএর ব্যবস্থা করা হয়নি। তারপরে ন্যূনতম বেতন কমপক্ষে কত টাকা হ'লে একটা লোক বেঁচে থাকতে পারে তার জন্য কমিটি এবং কমিশন হ'ল দেড় বৎসর ধ'রে। Pay Commission হল প্রধানতঃ রেলের কর্ম্মচারীদের জন্য। তারপরে প্রত্যেক ব্যাপারে নূতন নূতন কমিশন, নূতন নূতন কমিটি কোরে ধামাচাপা দেওয়া হচ্ছে এবং দেরী করা হচ্ছে। কমপক্ষে বেতন কত হওয়া উচিত সে সম্বন্ধে Central Government যেরকমভাবে ভাবছেন যদি Bengal Government সেইরকমভাবে একটা কিছু তাড়াতাড়ি কোরে দেন তাহ'লে আমরা অর্থাৎ শ্রমিকেরা বুঝতে

পারি যে হ্যাঁ, একটা কিছু হয়েছে, এর কমে মাহিনা হবে না। আগের গভর্ণমেণ্টের অর্থাৎ লীগ গভর্ণমেণ্টের আমলে Labour Commissionerএর throughতে একটা চেষ্টা হয়েছিল যে ন্যূনতম বেতন ৪০।৪৫।৫০, টাকা এ রকম বিধান হউক। কিন্তু বর্ত্তমানে তাও হচ্ছে না।

"উৎপাদন বাড়াও" এই চীৎকার সকলে করছেন, কিন্তু যে পরিমাণ খাদ্য দেওয়া হচ্ছে তাতে প্রায় সেই Suhrawardi gruel সুরাবর্দ্দী ঘ্যাঁট পর্য্যন্ত প্রায় পৌঁছান গেছে। আড়াই হাজার বা তিন হাজার calories না হলে—

(At this stage the House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Sri SIBNATH BANERJEE: উৎপাদন বাড়াতে হবে অনেকেই চীৎকার করছেন। উৎপাদন বাড়বে কি করে? খাবার বরাদ্দ যে পরিমাণ দেওয়া হচ্ছে, তাতে উৎপাদন বাড়তে পারে না। বলেছিলাম যে অন্ততঃ আড়াই হাজার তিন হাজার calorie দরকার—তা পেলে একজন worker শ্রমিক দিনে আট ঘণ্টা কাজ করতে পারবে। তা দেওয়া হচ্ছে কষ্টে সৃষ্টে এক হাজার colorie—তাতে সারওয়ারদি ঘেঁট বা gruelএর বেশী কপালে জোটে না, যা খেয়ে slow starvationএ বাঙ্গালী হাজারে হাজারে মারা গিয়েছিল। আশা করি বর্ত্তমান Civil Supply Minister সেটা করবেন না। যদি সব লোককে না বাঁচান যায়, অপর্যাপ্ত ৮ শত calorie দিয়ে সকলকে অর্দ্ধমৃত না করে কিছু লোককে পুরো খাইয়ে বাঁচিয়ে রাখুন। না পারলে বলে দেওয়া হোক—shift for yourself অন্ততঃ সেটা করা উচিত।

তারপরে ছাঁটাই। হাজারে হাজারে ছাঁটাই হবে। আমি বলছি না যে ছাঁটাই হতে পারবে না—ছাঁটাই করতে হতে পারে, কিন্তু আমি এই কথাই বলতে চাই গত পনেরই আগষ্ট আমরা স্বাধীনতা পেয়েছি এবং অন্ততঃ কিছুদিন এই স্বাধীনতা তাদের ভোগ করতে দিন। রাস্তার foot-pathএ যেয়ে যেন তাদের এই স্বাধীনতার ফল ভোগ করতে না হয়। পশ্চিম পাঞ্জাব থেকে ৫০ লক্ষ লোক Indian Dominionএ এসেছে। তাদের খাইয়ে পরিয়ে, বাড়ীঘর করে দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে। তাদের জন্য crores খরচ হচ্ছে। আর এই বিশ পঁচিশ হাজার লোক যারা যুদ্ধের সময় বৃটিশদের সাহায্য করেছে অবশ্য অন্যায় করেছে—যা হোক দেশরক্ষার জন্য essential serviceএর যাবতীয় কাজ করেছে, এখন তাদের তাড়িয়ে দিয়ে রাস্তায় দাঁড় করিয়ে, বেকার নিরন্ন করবার ব্যবস্থা না করে গভর্ণমেণ্ট তাদের অন্ততঃ ১৫ই আগষ্ট 1948 পর্য্যন্ত time দিন।

আমি কার কাছে বলছি জানি না। অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এখানে নেই। Speaker মহোদয় এটা শুনে রাখুন। আমার দুর্ভাগ্যের বিষয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের এখন শুনবার সময় হল না। (A VOICE: তিনি prayer করছেন।)

(At this stage the blue light was on.)

Sri SIBNATH BANERJEE—Five minutes more, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry there are so many speakers that I can not give you more time.

Sri SIBNATH BANERJEE: অনেক রকম schemeএর কথা শুনেছি। প্রথম কাজ হওয়া উচিত, এই সমস্ত লোক, যারা 15th August কাজ করেছিল, অন্য scheme করে তাদের অনেককে চাকরি দিবেন, সেটা পরে হবে—যারা আপাততঃ কাজ করছিল, সেটা Civil Supply হোক, আর Criminal Supply হোক—তাদের চাকরি দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা। এবং যতদিন চাকরি না দিতে পারবেন, অন্ততঃ 15th August 1948 পর্য্যন্ত তাদের ভরসা দিন একটা ব্যবস্থা তাদের হবে। কিন্তু বারবার তাদের উপর হুমকি দেওয়া হচ্ছে এবং তারাও strikeএর হুমকি দেখিয়ে তাদের চাকরি কোনরকমে বজায় রাখছে। এটা অত্যন্ত অশোভন ব্যাপার হচ্ছে। আশা করি, বাংলার বর্ত্তমান Cabinet এবং অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের জায়গায় যিনি বসে আছেন তিনি এ সমস্যা সম্বন্ধে sympathetic হবেন।

তারপর Pay Commissionএর recommendations. এটা অত্যন্ত দুঃখের সহিত জানাচ্ছি যে Pay Commissionএর recemmendations অর্থসচিব মহাশয় মেনে নিতে পারেননি।

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee, your time is up.

Sri SIBNATH BANERJEE : আর মাত্র চার মিনিট সময় চাই। এ বাবদ তিনি মাত্র এক কোটী টাকা বরাদ্দ করেছেন। এটা কি অত্যন্ত অশোভন হয়নি? Central P. W. D. এবং Government Building Electric Division একই জায়গায় পাশাপাশি কাজ করবে; একজন higher payment পাবে, আর একজন lower. কম বেতন পাবে—এটা কোনরকমেই হতে পারে না। তারপর কথা যে সেটা হচ্ছে rock-bottom, minimum living wage. এ জিনিষটা re-construct করা দরকার। তারপর যারা ৩০।৪০ বছর কাজ করছে অথচ temporary কেন থাকে এ জিনিষটা বহুবার Assemblyতে আমরা বলেছি, কিন্তু কিছুই হয়নি। আগের Assembly অন্য রকম Assembly ছিল—Dominion Status আসায় দেখা যাক, এটা কিভাবে যেয়ে দাঁড়ায়। তারপর আর একটা আমি বলব—আমাদের চারপাশে যে সব চাপরাশি কাজ করছে, তাদের দিকে তাকিয়ে দেখুন কি দুর্ভিক্ষপীড়িত চেহারা এবং এখানের কেরাণিরা যাদের রাত্রি ৮।৯টা পর্য্যন্ত কাজ করতে হয় বা Writers' Buildingএ যারা মন্ত্রী মহোদয়দের চাপরাশ নিয়ে ঘুরে বেড়ায় বা সেখানে যে সব কেরাণি রয়েছে তারা Pay Commissionএর recommendations অনুসারে living wage বা rock-bottom pay কেন পাবে না, তা আমার বুদ্ধির অগম্য। আশা করি, অর্থসচিব মহোদয় ও whole Cabinet এ সম্বন্ধে বিবেচনা করবেন।

তারপর Assemblyতে যারা কাজ করছে এবং Writers' Buildingএ যারা কাজ করছে, তাদের disparity of wages রয়েছে। Overtime pay দেওয়া হয় না যাদের temporary রাখা হয়। এই জিনিষটা নিয়েও বহুদিন থেকে আলোচনা হচ্ছে। এর কিছুটা হয় ত অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের গণ্ডির ভিতর পড়ে না; Speaker মহোদয়ের গণ্ডির মধ্যে পড়ে যায়, কিন্তু যার গণ্ডিতেই পড়ুক, আশা করি তাঁরা এটা দয়া করে দেখবেন।

তারপর অর্থসচিব মহাশয় appeal করেছেন to Government employees—তোমরা কম মাইনে নেও কারণ স্বাধীন হয়েছে দেশ। এটা সবচেয়ে বেসুরো লাগছে কাণে। যারা হাজার টাকা দু' হাজার টাকা পাচ্ছে—মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের যারা Secretary বা অন্য সব উচ্চপদস্থ কর্ম্মচারী বা আমাদের কাছে যদি appeal করা হত তবু বুঝতাম, কিন্তু যারা living wageএর rock-bottom পাচ্ছে তাদের কাছে appeal করা—তোমরা চেয়ো না কিছু। দেশ স্বাধীন হয়েছে। তোমাদের আরও sacrifice করা উচিত; এ অত্যন্ত অশোভন ও বেদনাদায়ক। যাঁরা বেশী মাইনে পান, তাঁদের কমাতে পারবেন না। Pay Commission বলেছিলেন ২ হাজার টাকা পর্য্যন্ত হতে পারবে, India Government বাড়িয়ে ৩ হাজার পর্য্যন্ত করলেন। বাংলাদেশেও সেই রকম চলেছে। যদি কমাতে হয়, তাদের কাছ থেকে কমান। তেলা মাথায় তেল দেওয়া হচ্ছে, এখন সেখানে আরও তেল ঢালছেন, আর যাদের নেই, তাদের অপ্রচুর যে ন্যায্য পাওনা তাও কাটতে চান—এটা বন্ধ করা দরকার।

আর একটা কথা—আমাদের Labour Department এর খাতে টাকা দেওয়া হয়েছে। খুব ভাল কথা। Labour Journalএ ৪০ হাজার টাকা দেওয়া হয়েছে। সেখানে বলা হয়েছে পাঁচশ কাগজ free দিতে হবে। কিন্তু Walker সাহেব কি কিনে নিতে পারবেন না? যাঁরা ইংরেজী পড়েন তাঁরাও কিনে নিতে পারবেন বলে আশা করি। কাজেই এই ৪০ হাজার কিছু কম হয়নি। এটা ভালই হয়েছে। আমরা বহুদিন থেকে এ বিষয়ে বলে আসছি। বোম্বেতেও Labour Journal চলেছে। আশা করি এখানেও এটা কার্য্যকরী হবে।

তারপর Conciliationএর জন্য টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে। এটা অত্যন্ত দরকারী। Partitionএর ফলে Labour Commission অফিসের বহু অফিসার পাকিস্থান চলে গেছেন এবং যাঁরা নূতন এসেছেন তাঁদের number কম। তাঁদের number বাড়াবার জন্য এ টাকার খুবই দরকার।

তারপর Tribunal যে কোনভাবে করা হয়েছে সেটা আমরা পছন্দ করি না। তবে Tribunal যা আমরা এতদিন পাইনি, তার যে ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে এটা খুব ভালই হয়েছে। সেইজন্য পূর্ব্বের মন্ত্রীদের আমি ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি এবং বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীরাও তার কিছুটা পাবেন।

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee, will you take your seat?

Sri SIBNATH BANERJEE: Half a minute more, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Excuse me. There are many members to speak.

Sri SIBNATH BANERJEE: Only two sentences.

Then regarding industrial truce. In Delhi there was an industrial truce but nothing was done. The Central Government has asked that provincial and local units should be formed and it should be done immediately. The Labour Advisory Board has not been formed. That should be done immediately. Sound trade unionism—that is a very dangerous thing. Sound for whom?- sound for Mr. Walker or sound for Mr. Deben Sen? So no money should be spent on sound or unsound trade unionism. Let the workers themselves find that out.

Mr. L. R. PENTONY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in congratulating the Hon'ble Finance Minister on the lucid financial assessment which he has presented for the ensuing year, I feel it would not be ungracious to criticise a few features and bring to his notice certain omissions. We are fortunate indeed that it is a budget without any shocks and few disappointments. It has given us the general impression of promise in spite of the short time he has had at his disposal to visualise and cater for some of the pressing needs of the people and although undoubtedly a large part of the financial obligations for the development of the province is borne by the Centre, the Hon'ble Mr Sarker has been able to provide for some expansion and certain amenities without recourse to fresh taxation.

We support his unconcealed anxiety that the two parts of Bengal pursue friendly and co-ordinated policies as in spite of partition the people form a single economic and cultural unit, with an ultimate end in view.

We must, however, stress our disappointment that there has hardly been any direct reference to the previous enquiries concerning the institution of Public Relations Officers and Staff attached to every department, the losses sustained on Boat Construction and Food-Grains Purchase Schemes with a view to avoiding similar mismanagement in the new development proposals, the decontrol of foodstuffs and the liquidation of the Civil Supplies Department, the institution of a Maritime Board and insufficient data concerning development of waste land by mechanical means for improving agriculture.

An analysis of the proposed expenses for the financial year 1948-49 in comparison with the actuals for 1946-47 shows that allotments have been made of 71 per cent. to Administration of Justice and 74 per cent. to Jails and Convict Settlements while on the other hand, only 36 per cent. has been allotted to Medical Relief and 54 per cent to Co-operative Credit and Relief.

Since partition, the West Bengal Government have been obliged to maintain some institutions which were more developed in the area, for instance, the Calcutta High Court, Central Jails, etc. These institutions, though essentially necessary for the province, are rather over-staffed compared to the needs of the reduced province of West Bengal. In view of the fact that the territorial jurisdiction of these institutions has shrunk considerably, it is imperative that they should be reorganised. A large number of officials opting for India, and not attached to West Bengal, have not received their posting instructions yet. It is high time that the most profitable utilisation of these officials should immediately be made by posting them in suitable departments.

Government should explore all avenues for reclaiming the convicts in some useful avocations. Cottage industries should be formed more widely for the rehabilitation of prisoners on their release.

West Bengal is an infant province. Her resources were heavily taxed and strained since the August disturbances in 1946. Bengal could not

build up any reserve towards the Post-War Development Fund during the war. The 1943 famine and other calamities heavily drained her available funds. Now, West Bengal happens to be the sentinel of India's eastern border and in view of this fact alone, she deserves the utmost consideration and help from the Central Government.

The demand of 215 lakhs is commendable and we are pleased to see that Government plans to spend adequate sums towards promoting a long-felt want—Technical Education.

Apart from the lump sum grants made for new projects, out of the Central Government's subsidy, only Rs. 107 lakhs have been demanded under this head, which is only 36 per cent. of the actuals for undivided Bengal in 1946-47. With the increase in expenses due to implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations, a larger share of the allotted amount will be absorbed towards establishment charges, resulting in a reduction of medical relief to the people

In the same way, when the details are worked out for the plans for which lump sum provision has been made, we trust that it will be realised that at the present stage of our hospital history, the need for providing attractive and comfortable conditions of service for nurses is of the highest importance. Buildings and other necessities are secondary at the moment. To-day, the nurse is the most important factor in any scheme for the improvement and development of hospitals in India.

A demand of 49 lakhs appears too meagre compared to the complexity of the problem. It should have been increased. It is only 37 per cent. of the actuals for 1946-47 of undivided Bengal.

Compared to the actuals for undivided Bengal in 1946-47, only 54 per cent. has been earmarked in the current budget Of the sum of 13 lakhs much the greater proportion will be appropriated to increase in salaries and superintendence, leaving very little to subsidise other projects fostered by this Department. Some provision should have been made for popularising hand spinning in view of the acute shortage of cloth, which is likely to continue unabated for some time to come.

In connection with Police administration, we would like to stress that during the present period of transition it is absolutely essential for the preservation of law and order that the Police staff as well as the clerical departments of the Intelligence Branches be kept up to full strength. With the division of the province there has been considerable reduction in the departments so that it is impossible for depleted staff to cope with the urgent work which accompanies every fresh emergency The introduction of noting in Bengalee further slows down efficiency and adds to the difficulty of filing and recording. In order to maintain the smooth, efficient and speedy working of the machinery of Government at this time of a change-over in the official language of the province, it is essential that adequate staff be employed and facilities given to non-Bengalee speaking employees to perfect themselves in a difficult and intricate script.

As it would not be possible for the West Bengal Government to meet the normal minimum expenses, the Central Government should take the responsibility of repaying their pre-partition debts (as allotted by the Arbitral Tribunal) with a view to placing the province's finances on a sound footing. A precedent may be found in the Niemeyer Award, 1937, under which the Government of India undertook to repay the province's liabilities by an extraordinary grant on the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy.

The allocations made out of the Central Government subvention of 657 lakhs for the current year for post-war development schemes should be spent within the scheduled time and not allowed to go by default, as previous experience has shown.

In the planning programme we note with pleasure that the Hon'ble Minister for Finance has expressly stated that it is the intention of Government to proceed with the schemes which have been previously prepared and developed, and in this connection we hope that the scheme for the construction of a Stadium in Calcutta, will fructify as a productive undertaking financed by Government.

Despite the heavy congestion in Calcutta and suburbs and the steady influx of people from East Bengal, a large number of buildings, hitherto occupied by military and semi-Government organisations, are lying vacant. It is impossible to take up building projects because of the scarcity of essential materials and high labour charges. Immediate steps should be taken by the Government to requisition the vacant houses and barracks lying in Calcutta and suburbs and let them out to tenants at reasonable rates. The plan to build a satellite township at Kanchrapara is commendable and deserves top priority. Calcutta has been a big liability to the countryside, because of the heavy demands of foodstuffs and provisions made by it from a radius of about 40 miles. In view of the congestion in Calcutta and the presence of a vast floating population with a higher purchasing power, all fresh foodstuffs, vegetables, fruits, etc., find their way to the metropolis, to the detriment of the health of rural population. Decentralisation of this city and diversion of a large number of men from this place by creating suitable opportunities for livelihood in satellite towns is the only remedy which can remove the miseries of the common man.

It has been found that Government has reduced the weekly ration of food grains even below minimum nutrition requirement. The present allotment is 1 sr. 5 ch. rice and 14 ch. wheat products, or ¾ lb. of bread per week. This is inadequate for an adult, and so induced some people to draw rations on ghost ration cards. Black market in rice and wheat products is still rampant, and the Government have been obliged to maintain a tight cordon around rationed areas. A non-eater of rice has to rest satisfied with 12 oz. of bread per week. This drives a lot of us to the open black market where bread is available in plenty at fancy prices without coupons, thus giving the impression that the apparent shortage is not in wheat products but in its equivalent coupons. The Government should realise that bread-eaters are also entitled to some consideration. In view of the fact that gradual decontrol of food grains and reduction in rationing commitments are the declared policy of the Centre and as the decontrol of cereals, pulses, sugar, etc., has not acted adversely on the market, it is well worth trying decontrol of wheat for a time at least as an experimental measure.

The effect of decontrol on cotton textiles is yet to be seen and it is hoped that prices will come down when adequate stock is released to the market.

The faulty and complicated methods of assessment and realisation of the Sales Tax have defeated the very purpose for which the levy was first introduced by the present Finance Minister. The levy has been increased from time to time without bringing about any corresponding windfall in the provincial revenue and it has caused a diversion of trade from Bengal. If Government cannot discharge its normal obligations without tapping this source of revenue, it is incumbent on them to see that the procedure of collection is simplified, all possibilities of multiple taxation eliminated, and the realisation machinery becomes honest, vigilant and unsparing. Uniform and easy systems of accounting and returns should be introduced and the administration should immediately be purged of undesirable elements.

"Produce or Perish" should be the watchword for manufacturers and labourers. The setting up of the conciliation machinery is timely, but before cases are forwarded to Tribunals Government should satisfy themselves

that every avenue of amicable settlement has been fully explored, and in settling disputes, Government should see that no unjust burden is imposed on manufacturers with a view to pacifying the intransigence of agitators, as a result of which production may receive a severe setback or the ultimate burden be transferred to the shoulders of the helpless consumers.

We endorse the proposals put forward to the Centre for altering the basis of allocation of the Jute duty and share of Income-tax, and are confident that with the able representation at hand West Bengal's share in both these sources of revenue will be increased.

We ardently stress the inclusion of the people's representatives in the directorates of the Government's proposed housing, transport and community kitchen schemes. The reports of such representatives drawn from every section of thought in the House are more likely to afford a proper basis of appreciation for the House to decide such questions as methods of administration, control of expenditure and future relations between the public and the legislature, particularly if the Hon'ble Mr. Sarker is really serious in his remarks that his party is anxious to see that the rich do not become richer and the poor poorer.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJI : মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয়, মহাত্মাজী মৃত্যুর কয়েকদিন আগে বারবার বলিয়াছেন ভারত বৃটিশের হাত হইতে মুক্তি পাইয়াছে বটে, কিন্তু সত্যিকার স্বাধীনতা লাভ করে নাই। সত্যিকার স্বাধীনতার চিত্রও তিনি আমাদের সম্মুখে বারবার তুলিয়া ধরিয়াছেন। তাঁহার মতে ভারত তখনই সত্যিকার স্বাধীন হইবে যখন ভারতে ধনী ও গরীবে বিশেষ কোন পার্থক্য থাকিবে না, যখন সর্বপ্রকার শোষণ লোপ পাইবে, যখন সকলেই পেট পুরিয়া খাইতে পাইবে যথেষ্ট কাপড় পরিতে পারিবে, ভাল ঘরে থাকিতে পারিবে, যখন সকলেই চিকিৎসা ও লেখাপড়ার যথেষ্ট সুযোগ পাইবে এবং হিন্দু-মুসলমানে দেশে বিরোধ থাকিবে না, ও হিন্দু সমাজ হইতে অস্পৃশ্যতা ও জাতিভেদ সম্পূর্ণরূপে দূর হইবে। আমি জানি আমার কম্যুনিষ্ট বন্ধুরা ইহাতে সন্তুষ্ট হইবেন না। কিন্তু ইহাই ছিল মহাত্মাজীর রাম রাজ্যের স্বরূপ, কিষাণ-মজদুর-প্রজারাজ দ্বারা ইহাই তিনি বুঝিতেন। ভারতের অগণিত জনগণের অন্তরের কামনাও ইহাই। ইহা পাইলেই বর্ত্তমান অবস্থায় তাহারা সুখী হইবে। সুতরাং আমাদের নিকট ইহাই হওয়া উচিত অদূর ভবিষ্যতের আদর্শ। এ ধরণের সমাজ যত শীঘ্র সম্ভব প্রতিষ্ঠার জন্যই আমাদের প্রস্তুত হওয়া উচিত এবং সর্বপ্রকার শক্তি প্রয়োগ করা উচিত। বর্ত্তমান বাজেট আলোচনার সময়ও এই ধরণের স্বাধীনতার চিত্রই হওয়া উচিত আমাদের একমাত্র মানদণ্ড।

ধনী ও গরীবে পার্থক্য দূর করিতে হইলে দুইটি কাজ বিশেষভাবে করা দরকার। প্রথমতঃ জমিদার প্রথার বিলোপসাধন, কারণ এই প্রথা হেতুই সমাজে আর্থিক ভিত্তিতে নানারূপ শ্রেণী-বৈষম্যের উদ্ভব হইয়াছে। এই প্রথার বিলোপসাধনের নীতি কংগ্রেস স্বীকার করিয়াছে। কংগ্রেস-শাসিত বিভিন্ন প্রদেশে এজন্য তোড়যোড়ও চলিতেছে। বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে এজন্য দশ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দও করা হইয়াছে। মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের নিকট সনির্বন্ধ অনুরোধ, তিনি যেন এই প্রথার বিলোপসাধন ত্বরান্বিত করার জন্য যথাসাধ্য তৎপর হন। স্বীকৃত নীতির কাজে পরিণতিতে বিলম্ব জনগণের মনে অসন্তোষ সৃষ্টি করিতে বাধ্য।

ধনী ও গরীবের পার্থক্য অপসারণের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় দ্বিতীয় কাজটি হইতেছে শিল্প ও ব্যবসায় প্রতিষ্ঠানে মালিকদের আয় ক্রমশঃ কমানো, ও শ্রমিকদের আয় ক্রমশঃ বাড়ানো। এই উদ্দেশ্যেই কেন্দ্রীয় কংগ্রেসী গভর্ণমেণ্ট কর্ত্তৃক ১৯৪৭ সালে শ্রম বিরোধ আইনটি (Industrial Disputes Act) প্রণীত হইয়াছে। এই আইন অনুসারে করণীয় তিনটি বিষয়ের মধ্যে দুইটি এখানে বিশেষ উল্লেখযোগ্য। একটি হইতেছে, একশোর বেশী শ্রমিক কাজ করে এমন সব শিল্প ও ব্যবসায় প্রতিষ্ঠানে ওয়ার্কস্ কমিটির প্রতিষ্ঠা; দ্বিতীয়টি হইতেছে মালিকে ও শ্রমিকে বিরোধ আপোষে মীমাংসা না হইলে, বিরোধের মীমাংসার জন্য Tribunal বসানো। ওয়ার্কস্ কমিটিতে শ্রমিক ও মালিকের সমসংখ্যক প্রতিনিধি থাকিবে। শ্রমিক প্রতিনিধিগণ, গণতান্ত্রিক উপায়ে শ্রমিকদের মধ্য হইতে তাহাদের দ্বারা নির্বাচিত হইবে। দৈনন্দিন কাজে উৎপন্ন বিরোধসমূহের আলাপ আলোচনা দ্বারা মীমাংসাই ওয়ার্কস্ কমিটির কর্ত্তব্য। এই কর্ত্তব্য যথাযথভাবে সম্পন্ন হইলে শিল্প ও ব্যবসায় প্রতিষ্ঠানে শান্তি স্থাপনের পথ সুগম হইবে এবং

বিভিন্ন শিল্প ও ব্যবসার প্রতিষ্ঠানে শ্রমিকেরা আস্তে আস্তে কর্তৃত্বলাভে সমর্থ হইবে। ট্রেড ইউনিয়ন আন্দোলন ও ওয়ার্কার্স কমিটি স্থাপনের ফলে শক্তিশালী হইয়া উঠিবে। কারণ শ্রমিকদের উপর সত্যিকার প্রভাব আছে এমন ইউনিয়ন কর্তৃক মনোনীত শ্রমিকেরাই ওয়ার্কার্স কমিটিতে নির্বাচিত হইতে সক্ষম হইবে। ফলে পকেট ইউনিয়নসমূহ লোপ পাইবে। একশতের অধিক শ্রমিক কাজ করে এমন কারখানা ও সওদাগরী আফিসের সংখ্যা পশ্চিম বাংলায় পাঁচশো। চল্লিশটি ওয়ার্কার্স কমিটি স্থাপনের নির্দ্দেশ ইতিপূর্ব্বেই দেওয়া হইয়াছে। বাকীগুলি স্থাপনের নির্দ্দেশও তাড়াতাড়ি দেওয়া উচিত। কারণ কম্যুনিষ্টদের বাজার প্রচার সত্বেও শ্রমিকেরা ওয়ার্কার্স কমিটির উপকারিতা উপলব্ধি করিতে আরম্ভ করিয়াছে এবং ইহাদের প্রতিষ্ঠায় বিলম্ব তাহাদের মনে নৈরাশ্য ও বিক্ষোভের উদ্রেক করিবে।

শিল্প সম্পর্কিত সব বিরোধই প্রথম ওয়ার্কার্স কমিটিতে বিবেচিত হইবে। ওয়ার্কার্স কমিটিতে বিরোধের মীমাংসা সম্ভব না হইলে তাহা গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট পাঠানো হইবে। বিভিন্ন সহকারী লেবার কমিশনারেরা তখন বিরোধের মীমাংসার চেষ্টা করিবেন। এভাবেতে মীমাংসা সম্ভব না হইলে বিরোধটী ট্রাইব্যুন্যালে পাঠানো হইবে। ট্রাইবিউন্যালের রায় মালিক ও শ্রমিক সকলেই মানিতে বাধ্য। সুতরাং বিরোধের অবসান এখানেই ঘটিবে।

ট্রাইবিউন্যালের বিরুদ্ধে কমিউনিষ্টদের তীব্র প্রচার সত্বেও পশ্চিম বাংলার শ্রমিকেরা ট্রাইবিউন্যালপ্রিয় হইয়া উঠিতেছে। কারণ, এপর্য্যন্ত ট্রাইবিউন্যাল-প্রদত্ত প্রায় সব রায়ই শ্রমিকদের অনুকূল হইয়াছে। শ্রমিকেরা আরো জানিতে পারিয়াছে যে ট্রাইবিউন্যাল কংগ্রেসী গভর্ণমেণ্টের একটি স্থায়ী ব্যাপার হইয়া দাঁড়াইয়াছে। ট্রাইব্যুন্যালের রায় সাধারণতঃ এক বৎসরের জন্য বলবৎ থাকে। বৎসরান্তে শ্রমিকেরা চাহিলে আবার ট্রাইব্যুন্যাল পাইতে পারে, সুতরাং বৎসরের পর বৎসর ট্রাইব্যুন্যালের বিচার চলিতে থাকিবে। ফলে অদূর ভবিষ্যতে এমন এক অবস্থার উদ্ভব হইবে যখন আয় সম্বন্ধে শ্রমিক ও মালিকে বড় বিশেষ পার্থক্য থাকিবে না। তখন মালিকেরা হয়তো শ্রমিকদের সত্যিকার অংশীরূপে কারখানা চালাইবে, নইলে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে ঐসব প্রতিষ্ঠান চালানোর দায়িত্ব নিতে হইবে।

সুতরাং বিভিন্ন ওয়ার্কার্স কমিটি ট্রাইব্যুন্যাল সমাজতন্ত্রীকরণের (socialisation এর) পথ পরিষ্কার করিবে। সমাজতন্ত্রীকরণের এই আদর্শ গভর্ণমেণ্টের সম্মুখে সুস্পষ্টরূপে সর্ব্বক্ষণ থাকিলেই ওয়ার্কার্স কমিটি ও ট্রাইব্যুন্যালের স্থাপনা শুধু ত্বরান্বিত হইবে না, ইহাদের স্থাপনা সফলও হইবে। ট্রাইব্যুন্যালরূপে কাজ করার জন্য নয়জন জজ ইতিপূর্ব্বেই নিযুক্ত হইয়াছেন। শিল্পপ্রধান পশ্চিম বঙ্গের সমস্ত শিল্পকে ট্রাইব্যুন্যালের বিচারাধীন আনিতে হইলে আরো তিনটী ট্রাইব্যুন্যালের প্রয়োজন হইতে পারে। ট্রাইব্যুন্যালের সংখ্যাল্পতা বিরোধের রায়দানে বিলম্ব ঘটাইতে বাধ্য। এইরূপ বিলম্বে শ্রমিকদের মনে নৈরাশ্য ও বিক্ষোভের উদ্রেক হওয়া স্বাভাবিক। এ অবস্থায় যে উদ্দেশ্যে শ্রমবিরোধ আইনের প্রণয়ন এবং যে উদ্দেশ্যে ট্রাইব্যুন্যাল বসানো তাহাই ব্যর্থ হইবে। কাজেই প্রয়োজন সংখ্যক ট্রাইব্যুন্যাল নিযুক্ত করিতে হইবেই। এ বাবৎ অতিরিক্ত খরচ শ্রমিকদের সন্তোষজনিত মাল উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধিরূপে ফিরিয়া আসিবে।

শ্রমবিরোধের আলোচনা প্রসঙ্গে শিল্পনীতির কথা আপনাআপনিই আসে। মৌলিক অধিকার সম্পর্কিত ১৯৩১এর করাচী প্রস্তাবে Key industries সমূহের জাতীয়করণ সম্পর্কে স্পষ্ট আশ্বাস আছে, কিন্তু বাজেট বক্তৃতায় জাতীয়করণ সম্পর্কিত নীতির কোন স্পষ্ট আভাস পাওয়া যায় নাই। এ সম্বন্ধে স্পষ্ট করিয়া বলিলে গণমন সন্তুষ্ট হইত।

সিন্দ্রিতে কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট কর্তৃক আয়োজিত সার প্রস্তুত কারখানার জন্য বাজেটে ১০ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ হইয়াছে। বিহার গভর্ণমেণ্টও দামোদর উপত্যকা করপোরেশনের সহযোগে heavy chemicals উৎপাদনের উদ্দেশ্যে একটি কারখানা স্থাপন সম্পর্কিত পরিকল্পনার প্রস্তুতির জন্যও চার লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। এ দুটিই সুখের কথা, কিন্তু ইস্পাত শিল্প সম্পর্কিত পরিকল্পনার জন্য কোন বরাদ্দের উল্লেখই বাজেটে নাই। কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট খুব দ্রুত দুইটি ইস্পাত নির্ম্মাণের কারখানা স্থাপনের সংকল্প করিয়াছে বলিয়া প্রকাশ। এই দুইটি কারখানার একটি পশ্চিম বঙ্গে স্থাপিত হওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয়। ইস্পাতের কারখানার জন্য কয়লা ও লোহ দরকার। কয়লা বাংলায় আছে, লোহ বাংলায় না থাকিলেও বাংলার নিকটে আছে। বাংলায় এখনই যথেষ্ট সংখ্যায় ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কারখানা আছে; অদূর ভবিষ্যতে হয়তো আরও প্রতিষ্ঠিত হইবে। এই সব কারখানার জন্য ইস্পাত প্রয়োজন। কলিকাতার বন্দর হইতে বিদেশে লোহা চালান দেওয়ার সুবিধা আছে। অদূর

ভবিষ্যতে কলিকাতার নিকটবর্ত্তী কোন স্থানে জাহাজ নির্ম্মাণের কারখানা স্থাপন করিতে হইলেও সঙ্কল্পিত দুইটি ইস্পাতের কারখানার একটি পশ্চিম বঙ্গে স্থাপিত হওয়া দরকার। শুনা যাইতেছে কারখানা দুইটি স্থাপনের স্থান নির্ণয়ের জন্য কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট শীঘ্রই একটি অনুসন্ধান সমিতি নিযুক্ত করিবেন। এই সমিতির সম্মুখে যথাযথভাবে বাংলার দাবী পেশ করার ব্যাপারে সাহায্য করার জন্য একজন expert designer নিযুক্ত করা দরকার। আশা করি পশ্চিম বাংলার সরকার এ বিষয়ে অবহিত হইয়া যথাবিহিত ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বনের জন্য আগেই অগ্রণী হইয়াছেন।

এই ত গেল Basic Industry-র কথা। অন্যান্য শিল্প সম্বন্ধে কংগ্রেসের নীতি নিম্নরূপ। এই সব শিল্পের মধ্যে যেগুলিকে কুটীর শিল্পরূপে সহজেই গড়িয়া তোলা সম্ভব সেগুলিকে কুটীর শিল্প-রূপেই গড়িয়া তুলিতে হইবে। বাকী শিল্পগুলির মালিক State হইতে পারে, ব্যক্তিবিশেষ কিংবা বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে পারে। ব্যক্তিবিশেষ কিংবা বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান যে সব শিল্পের মালিক হইবে তাহাদের উপরও ষ্টেটের কড়া কনট্রোল থাকা দরকার।

এবার গভর্ণমেণ্ট রেশম, বস্ত্র, গুড় ও কাগজের কুটীর শিল্পরূপে বিকাশের যে ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন তাহা মোটের উপর সন্তোষজনক। বস্ত্র সম্বন্ধে পশ্চিম বাংলাকে সম্পূর্ণ স্বাবলম্বী করার সঙ্কল্প লইয়া খাদি শিল্পের বিকাশে গভর্ণমেণ্টের মন দিতে হইবে। অন্যান্য কুটীর শিল্পের বিকাশও যতখানি সম্ভব করা দরকার। তবেই কুটীর শিল্প বিকাশের চেষ্টা সফল হইবে। নইলে ইহা লইয়া খেলা করা হইবে মাত্র। পূর্ব্বোক্ত পথে কুটীর শিল্পের বিকাশ হইলে পল্লীবাসীদের বেকার-সমস্যার অনেকখানি সমাধান হইবে, তাহাদের আয়ও বাড়িবে। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এই সব কুটীর শিল্পের সংগঠন কাজে রাজনৈতিক অপরাধে নির্যাতিত বহু লোকের কাজ জুটিবে। অর্থের সংস্থান হইলেও দুনিয়ায় বর্ত্তমান অবস্থায় Basic Industry-র বিকাশ অনিশ্চয়তায় আচ্ছন্ন ও সময়সাপেক্ষ। কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্টের ও কর্ম্মীদের আন্তরিকতা থাকিলে কুটীর শিল্পের বিকাশ সহজেই সম্ভবপর।

ধনী ও গরীবের পার্থক্য সম্বন্ধে বলিতে বলিতে শিল্প প্রসঙ্গে আসিয়া পড়িয়াছিলাম। সত্যিকার স্বাধীনতার চিত্রে এখন আবার ফিরা যাউক। সেই চিত্রে আর্থিক পার্থক্য অপসারণের পরেই ছিল পেটভরা খাদ্যসংস্থানের কথা। অন্ন সম্বন্ধে পশ্চিমবাংলা স্বয়ংপূর্ণ কি না বলা কঠিন। বিভিন্ন কারণে পশ্চিম বঙ্গের জনসংখ্যা যে হারে বাড়িতেছে তাহাতে পশ্চিম বঙ্গে অন্নের অভাব হওয়াই স্বাভাবিক। এই অভাব পূরণের জন্য সেচ প্রভৃতির উন্নতি যে আবশ্যক তাহা সর্ব্বজনবিদিত। সুতরাং সে সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলা নিষ্প্রয়োজন। পুকুর সংস্কার খাতে যে বিশ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে আমি শুধু সে সম্বন্ধে ২।১টি কথা বলিতে চাই। বিশ লক্ষ টাকা কম কথা নয়। এই বিশ লক্ষ টাকা যথাযথভাবে এবং এই বৎসরই খরচ হইলে অনেক কাজ হইতে পারে। গভর্ণমেণ্টকে এ বিষয়ে এখন হইতেই সচেষ্ট হইতে বিশেষ-ভাবে অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

দামোদর উপত্যকা ও মোর নদী সম্পর্কিত সেচ পরিকল্পনার কাজের রূপায়নে যাহাতে বিলম্ব না ঘটে সে সম্বন্ধেও পশ্চিম বঙ্গ সরকারের বিশেষ অবহিত হওয়া আবশ্যক।

অন্নের পরেই বস্ত্রের কথা। খাদি শিল্পের বিকাশে গভর্ণমেণ্ট আন্তরিকতার সহিত উদ্যোগী হইলে বস্ত্র সমস্যার সমাধান সহজেই সম্ভবপর।

বস্ত্রের পরেই গৃহের কথা। কলিকাতায় গৃহ-সমস্যা এত দারুণ ও বস্তীবাসীদের অবস্থা এত শোচনীয় যে পল্লীবাসীদের গৃহ সম্বন্ধে এখন ভাবা অতি কঠিন এবং তাহাদের গৃহের উন্নতির জন্য বাজেটে কোন বরাদ্দও করা হয় নাই। নিম্ন মধ্যবিত্তদের গৃহ সম্পর্কিত পরিকল্পনা বাবদ বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে ৫০ লক্ষ টাকা, এবং বস্তীবাসীদের গৃহসংস্কারের জন্য বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে ২০ লক্ষ টাকা। মধ্যবিত্ত ও [illegible] গৃহ-সমস্যা এত দারুণ যে ৫০ লক্ষ ও ২০ লক্ষ টাকা সমুদ্রে বিন্দুবৎ। কলিকাতার জনসংখ্যা এত দ্রুত বাড়িতেছে যে অদূর ভবিষ্যতে ইহা এক কোটিতে দাঁড়াইলেও কিছু বিস্ময়ের বিষয় হইবে না এবং ইহা হয়তো বিস্তৃত হইবে একদিকে ডায়মণ্ড হারবার অন্যদিকে রাণাঘাট পর্য্যন্ত। এরূপ সম্ভাব্যতার কথা মনে রাখিয়াই গভর্ণমেণ্টের পরিকল্পনা প্রস্তুত করা উচিত। নইলে ইতস্ততঃ বিক্ষিপ্তভাবে বজবজ, মেটিয়াবুরুজ ও কাশীপুরের মত মানুষের বাসের অযোগ্য নোংরা সহর কলিকাতার নিকটবর্ত্তী অঞ্চলে গড়িয়া উঠিবে। আমার মতে বৃহৎ কলিকাতার জন্যও কলিকাতার মত একটি Improvement Trust অবিলম্বে স্থাপন করা উচিত। এই ট্রাষ্টের কাজ হইবে কলিকাতার আশপাশের জমি

survey করিয়া পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী রাস্তা বানান, পার্ক বসানো, বিভিন্ন রকমের শিল্পের জন্য বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলের সংরক্ষণ এবং বাদবাকী জমি যথাসম্ভব কম দরে গৃহ নির্ম্মাণের জন্য জনসাধারণের মধ্যে বন্টন। কম দরে জমি পাইলে অনেকের পক্ষে মোটামুটি ধরণের বাড়ী নির্ম্মাণ সম্ভব হইতে পারে। এই পরিকল্পিত অঞ্চলে শিল্পপতিদের সাহায্যে শ্রমিকদের জন্য গৃহ সহজে নির্ম্মিত হইতে পারে। শ্রমিকদের জন্য এভাবে গৃহ নির্ম্মিত হইলে কলিকাতার বস্তী-সমস্যার সমাধান অনেকটা হইয়া আসিবে। কারণ, বস্তীবাসীদের অনেকেই শ্রমিক। দ্রুত চলাচলের ব্যবস্থা থাকিলে ২০।২৫ মাইল দূর হইতেও কলিকাতায় আসিয়া কাজ করা কঠিন নয়। বাজেটে যানবাহন খাতে ৫০ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। কাঁচড়াপাড়া এলাকা বিকাশের জন্য বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে ৫০ লক্ষ টাকা। এই এলাকাটিকে আলাদাভাবে না গড়িয়া তুলিয়া সমগ্র পরিকল্পনার অঙ্গরূপে গড়িয়া তোলাই বাঞ্ছনীয়।

এই ত গেল বৃহৎ কলিকাতার বিকাশ সম্বন্ধে পরিকল্পনার কথা। কলিকাতার বর্ত্তমান বস্তীসমূহের জন্য অবিলম্বে দুইটি কাজ করা দরকার। প্রথমতঃ জমির মালিকেরা যাহাতে বস্তীবাসীদের জমি হইতে উৎখাত না করিতে পারে সেজন্য অবিলম্বে আইন প্রণয়ন করা আবশ্যক। দ্বিতীয়তঃ বস্তী অঞ্চলের শোচনীয় অবস্থার সংশোধনের জন্য সেখানকার রাস্তা, নর্দ্দামা, আলো, পায়খানা, জলসরবরাহ প্রভৃতির উন্নতিসাধনকল্পে কর্পোরেশনের উপর চাপ দেওয়া। বস্তীর উন্নতিসাধন এত জরুরী যে এই ব্যাপারে এতটুকু দেরীও গুরুতর অপরাধের সামিল হইবে। প্রয়োজন হইলে এ ব্যাপারে কর্পোরেশনকে গভর্ণমেন্টের উদার হস্তে অর্থসাহায্যও করিতে হইবে।

শিক্ষা ও স্বাস্থ্য সম্বন্ধে শ্রীযুক্ত অন্নদা চৌধুরী মহাশয় যে মন্তব্য করিয়াছেন তাহার অতিরিক্ত আমার আর কিছু বলার নাই। অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের নিকট আমার শুধু এই অনুরোধ যে সত্যিকার স্বাধীন ভারতের সমগ্র চিত্রটির দিকে লক্ষ্য রাখিয়াই তিনি যেন এই সব কাজে অগ্রসর হন।

আর একটি কথা। বাজেটে অন্যান্য বৎসরের মত এবারও বিভিন্ন সাম্প্রদায়িক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য অর্থ বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। সাম্রাজ্যবাদী শাসন সময়ে ইহা শোভন হইলেও বর্ত্তমান স্বাধীন ভারতে ইহা কতটা শোভন ও যুক্তিযুক্ত তা বিবেচ্য বিষয়।

চিত্রের প্রায় সব অঙ্গ সম্বন্ধেই সংক্ষেপে বলা হইল। বাকী শুধু সাম্প্রদায়িক ও জাতিভেদ সমস্যা। মহাত্মাজীর মহাপ্রয়াণের পর সাম্প্রদায়িকতা সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলা অবান্তর। বাংলায় অস্পৃশ্যতা থাকিলেও সেরূপ তীব্র আকারে নাই। জাতিভেদ প্রথার বিলোপসাধনই বাংলার প্রধান সমস্যা। এই প্রথা সম্পূর্ণরূপে দূর না হইলে জাতি গঠনের অন্যান্য কাজ যতই আগাক না কেন জাতি গঠন অপূর্ণই রহিয়া যাইবে। স্বাধীন গভর্ণমেন্টের হাতে ক্ষমতা অসীম। এই প্রথার বিলোপসাধনের জন্য সেই ক্ষমতার প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবহার গভর্ণমেন্টের করা বিধেয়।

আমার বক্তব্য শেষ হইয়াছে। অর্থসচিব মহোদয় তাঁহার বাজেট বক্তৃতার প্রথম ভাগে বলিয়াছেন—"Today we breathe the air of freedom and the power to shape our destiny lies in the hand of our people." বাজেটে গতানুগতিকতার বদলে এই freedom বা মুক্তি সকলে দেখিতে চায়। আগে আমাদের অদৃষ্ট রচনার ক্ষমতা আমাদের নিজেদের হাতে ছিল না। তাই পরের নির্দ্দেশে আমাদের কাজ করিতে হইত। এখন আমরা সম্পূর্ণ স্বাধীন। স্বাধীন দেশকে আমরা কিভাবে গড়িয়া তুলিতে চাই সেই চিত্র সম্মুখে রাখিয়াই আমাদের সব কিছু করা দরকার। গঠনমূলক কাজ সহজ নহে। কিন্তু পরিকল্পনানুযায়ী কাজ করিলে কাজ পরিসমাপ্তির দিকে সুনির্দ্দিষ্টভাবে আগাইয়া আসে। কাজ কতখানি আগাইল জনগণের পক্ষে তাহা বুঝাও সম্ভব হয়। ফলে তাহাদের সন্তুষ্টি বাড়ে। দেশকে নূতন করিয়া গড়িয়া তোলার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় উদ্যম তাহারা সাগ্রহে করে। ফলে দেশ সামগ্রিক সমৃদ্ধির দিকে দ্রুত আগাইয়া চলে। তাই আজ গভর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষে সবচাইতে বেশী দরকার বিকাশের—পূর্ণ পরিকল্পনাটি শুধু নিজেদের সম্মুখে নহে, দেশের সকলের কাছে তুলিয়া ধরা এবং সেই পরিকল্পনা অনুসারে যথাসম্ভব দ্রুত আগাইয়া চলা। নইলে অনেক অর্থ অপব্যয় হইবে এবং দেশও সুচারুরূপে গড়িয়া উঠিবে না।

"জয় হিন্দ"

Mr. DANIEL GOMES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must heartily congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his presentation of a generally pleasing budget and for his presentation with words and observations which testify that he has a complete mastery of the financial fabric of the province. He

has at last redeemed the budget of this half of the province of Bengal from the confusion of a wavering direction. In consequence today we at least see the vision of a comprehensive plan although the actual plan may be delayed for some time.

The financial state of the province is apparently healthy but it would be somewhat of flattery to suggest that this affluent position is much the result of any tremendous effort on the part of Government or their predecessors in office. The affluence of West Bengal is more or less due to the accident of partition which placed Calcutta, the most revenue-producing area in United Bengal, within the jurisdiction of our fortunate half of the province. The financial position would have been much better if Government had succeeded in persuading the Centre to allocate to this province the full quota of 20 per cent. of Income-tax. Assuming normal vigilance on the part of our provincial Government and granting a sympathetic attitude on the part of the Centre towards this province, the financial position of the province of West Bengal should continue to be bright enough to permit increasing the expenditure on nation-building departments as inevitably as the financial position of Eastern Pakistan will be dark necessitating imposition of extra taxation and restriction in beneficial expenditure in that part of the province. I would not like to draw a comparison between the probable financial positions of the two sister provinces of Bengal if the difference in prosperity would not have a direct and appreciable effect on the economy of this province. The relative prosperity of this province is bound to stimulate and accelerate immigration into this province not only of members of the minority community in Eastern Pakistan but also probably of members of the majority community in that area who are gradually getting disillusioned as to the blessings of separated State. Government should be fully prepared to maintain their financial structure in such condition that it can stand the strain of welcoming these immigrants.

It is regrettable that Government has not thought fit to stop the imposition of the sales tax. The incidence of this tax is heavy on the poor. The tax is easy to be evaded and it tends to drive out the commerce from the province into other spheres where there is no such tax Government should try to do away with this tax at the earlier opportunity. They should try to find out other alternative taxes such as those on advertisements and luxury goods.

It is also regrettable that the budget does not reveal any well-thought-out plan for the solution of the unemployment problem. It looks as if Government has taken complacently for granted that the allotted expenditure on several departments and the rising prosperity will automatically absorb the unemployed by the free play of competitive wages. Such a hope has not proved true in any country. It is desirable that Government should make a statistical survey of the enemployed at least of those among the educated community and devise positive plans, such as encouragement to employers by the introduction of a scheme of tax remissions for every extra person employed. Government may also consider the advisability of spending on public works, even by incurring debt, specifically for the purpose of relieving unemployment. All progressive countries have accepted the responsibility for the solution of the unemployment problem. The people of this province also expect that this Government in collaboration with the Centre should act on similar lines.

The policy of gradual decontrolling of goods in accordance with the decisions of the Central Government is welcome to this province. But at the same time it is necessary that decontrol should be immediately followed by an intensive drive for production or else we are bound to witness galloping inflation with its spiral of increasing wages and price. It is absolutely necessary on the part of Government to keep a steady watch on

the volume of production and the index of the cost of living, and act swiftly and effectively in order that decontrol may not do more harm than good.

The Civil Supplies Department itself with its huge expenditure remains a liability. This department more than any other is the subject of almost universal whisperings. It is desirable that this department should be liquidated as soon as possible.

It is gratifying to note that Government propose to spend fairly large sums for the nation-building departments. I hope Government have considered the possibilities of finding men and material to start the works. It will be a sad disappointment if at the end of the year we are informed that the works could not be proceeded with for want of suitable experts and sufficient material.

I trust that the scheme of producing fertilisers in Bihar in which this province is participating will prove to be of benefit to this province. An apprehension has been expressed sometimes that the soil and the crops in Bengal being somewhat different to those in Bihar, the same fertiliser may not be suitable to conditions in Bengal. It has been voiced in this House previously that the fertiliser of the nature of ammonium sulphate that is being produced in Bihar has a tendency to damage the soil permanently after yielding good crop for a few years. I hope that Government has taken expert advice on the possible usefulness of the fertilisers.

The allotment of one crore of rupees for the purpose of increasing the emoluments of lower paid Government servants is a very necessary one. I wish the Finance Minister had not supplemented this allotment by one page of questionable instructions. Let Government never forget for a moment that if we want to root out corruption, it we want to raise the standard of efficiency in administration, it is necessary that Government servants must be given adequate wages and honourable conditions of living so that they may resist the temptations of earning by unfair means. In peace and in war, if the Government servants cannot be trusted as fully reliable, the future of this province will be very dark indeed. Instead of giving a homily to the Government servants, the Hon'ble Finance Minister should have provided them with opportunities to live in cheaper houses or to get cheaper rations

The Finance Minister deserves to be congratulated particularly for his industrial policy He has shown courage and wisdom in refusing to be committed to a wholesale policy of nationalisation. He has shown wise discretion in selecting basic industries that have to be nationalised leaving others to private enterprise to be managed by private initiative with or without Government aid. Adoption of this scheme of selective nationalisation is a *sine qua non* to the growth of healthy democracy and to maximum production. Granting the adoption of a progressive system of taxation, this industrial policy should also be compatible with equitable distribution.

There is a small item of four lakhs allotted to the promotion of *khadi* industry. I would not grudge this item at all if it would not also involve a question of principle of some importance. After the passing away of Mahatma Gandhi the economy and politics of the country must come down or up from the level of inspiration to the level of human reason. Side by side with the allotment of *khadi* industry, there is also an allotment for industrial research. It is relevant to enquire whether or not scientific research would support the encouragement of the *khadi* industry having regard to our social and economic conditions, the necessity of increasing the volume of production and improving the quality, the necessity of overtaking the other nations in the race of industrial progress and having regard to the military strategy of the country. If scientific

research would support the continuation and encouragement of the *khadi* industry, I have nothing to say against the allotment. On the contrary, I would like the allotment to be raised from four lakhs to forty lakhs in order to obtain a cumulative result. But if scientific opinion does not support the cause of the *khadi* industry, I would request the Hon'ble Finance Minister not to fritter away the resources for reasons of sentiment, reverence or *in memoriam*.

Sri ANANDILAL PODDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rising to speak a few words on the Budget, I must say at the very outset that despite numerous difficulties and handicaps, the Hon'ble Finance Minister is to be congratulated for the proposals he has placed before the House. The legacy of the League Ministry and the aftermath of the riots were prominent preoccupations of the last Ministry, while the one now in the saddle has not had sufficient time. The Budget, naturally, could not have been "spectacular" though it could, I maintain, be more far-reaching and more in consonance with the requirements of the present situation.

Though appreciating Governmental efforts in drawing up the budget, I would invite attention to a few out of many features requiring close scrutiny and mature consideration.

Sir, may I refer to a problem on which I rather feel strongly—I mean the problem confronting the Hindus of Eastern Bengal. When the Hindu members of the Legislature of undivided Bengal voted for the partition of the province, it was definitely understood that West Bengal would gladly accommodate and look after the East Bengal Hindus in case the latter had to leave their hearths and homes owing to intolerable conditions prevailing there. But while we breathe the exhilarating air of freedom, and feel safe and secure, our brethern over there, after all the glorious sacrifices made by them for the cause of the country, are chafing under a sense of utter frustration, and are undergoing innumerable difficulties and untold suffering as is amply demonstrated by the daily arrival of hundreds of refugees. Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has no doubt expressed his deepest and sincerest sympathy for them and has promised to help them to the utmost but has at the same time expressed the apprehension that "it may not be possible for us to render all the relief they may need or all that we may wish to render to them in the new predicament". I am unable, Sir, to rest content with that sort of expression which is indicative of a lack of confidence at the very start. We must remember that we sacrificed East Bengal Hindus in order to form our West Bengal. Sir, we must remember that we are under a moral obligation to do them the fullest justice. How are we going to meet that obligation? Have we sounded the Centre on the subject? Has any planning been done to rehabilitate East Bengal refugees who number a few lakhs today but may possibly number legion later on? I am sorry, I do not find a trace of any concrete well-considered scheme or provision and therefore consider this as a glaring omission. Surely, Sir, after the bitter experience in Western India, we cannot afford to be complacent and to look on until we stand face to face with a gigantic task baffling the best brains of the country owing to its magnitude and suddenness.

So-called schemes for growing more food have hitherto been fruitless. The money spent on them has disappeared in the quicksands of official endeavours, has gone into the bottomless abyss. People naturally want to know what are the governmental proposals for growing more food. The wish to grow more is surely there but is there a definite policy? If so, has any programme been chalked out? It is a poor consolation to people suffering from chronic semi-starvation since 1943 to hear that efforts would be made for growing more food. If it was possible for an industrial country like Great Britain to feed 75 per cent of its population from its own increased food production, why should Bengal and India, in spite of being "*sujala, sufala, shasya*

shyamala" be unable to achieve self-sufficiency? What about the selection and supply of seeds, manufacture and distribution of sufficient manure, preservation and improvement of cattle? No, Sir, old time red-tapism will spell ruin and I would therefore emphasise a practical businesslike approach, an all-out intensive effort if we are to live. I know there is no magic wand by the waving of which tangible results will be forthcoming overnight but surely we could be taken into confidence as the precise intentions of the Government with regard to food which is a problem of the greatest magnitude. Outlines of a practical programme could be given to assure the public of future rapid progress. The small details furnished by the Hon'ble Finance Minister regarding a dry cow salvage farm or re-excavation of tanks or proposed agricultural college and so do not go to inspire confidence in respect of a speedy improvement in the matter of food supplies. We have a potato specialist and have to depend on outside sources to augment our small produce. We have a sugarcane specialist but as we all know West Bengal cannot make even a fraction of the sugar she needs. The same is the case with mustard seeds and pulses What then is badly wanted is a comprehensive practical plan in which first things are given first precedence, and what is wanted is a demand for actual results achieved by a department or an officer

The Civil Supplies Department, Sir, is a white elephant entailing huge expenditure Mustard oil, sugar and textiles have already been decontrolled Has there been, I ask, a corresponding reduction of staff? I say the Department is definitely over-staffed, is top-heavy and as to its efficiency and integrity, the less said the better. Even Bapuji, the father of the nation, cried himself hoarse over decontrol of foodstuffs at least as an experimental measure as he was disgusted with the way in which controls were administered, but rationing still continues although the quantity offered falls far short of human needs. No wonder that people who are in a chronic state of malnutrition laugh at our exhortations to work more and produce more

The decision of the Government to absorb everyone who has opted for the Indian Union is laudable no doubt but then the Government should initiate works of development and provide suitable men therein. Protection from external aggression as also from internal explosion could open up a new vista of employment. Above all, we have a legitimate claim on the Centre with regard to the expenditure that has to be incurred paying those men of East Bengal, who cannot be absorbed in the administration but have to be paid all the same owing to arrangements arrived at at higher level. The House would like to know what exactly has been done in this direction and what is the actual position. For, if there be no vacancies which they can properly fill, the slender resources of the province cannot continue to maintain them indefinitely.

Sir, regarding gunny export quotas, I entirely agree with what has been pressed by Mr. Walker and fail to understand why gunny export is not being decontrolled. There is something wrong somewhere. I would like to know definitely what this Government have done about this or intend to do. What are the reasons that goods are lying either in the godowns or in the docks for want of shipment quotas. Unless immediate actions are taken, the steamers might return practically empty. I would like the Finance Minister to state while replying as to what actions he proposes to take in this matter. Mr. Siddiqi whose practice, it appears, is never to stay behind to listen to replies which his invectives naturally evoke has rather sarcastically referred to what he calls the danger of the centre of gravity of Calcutta's commerce being shifted from Clive Street to Burrabazar. I can assure him that with a Congress Government in the saddle, there is no solid basis whatsoever behind the nightmares that he believes he is seeing. What the Congress Government in

West Bengal has successfully achieved is to prevent the commercial centre of gravity of Calcutta from being shifted to Ezra Street where it was being assiduously sought to be transferred by the previous Government in undivided Bengal. It should also be gratefully acknowledged that the Congress Government has also succeeded in shifting the centre of Calcutta's control from Kalabagan to Lalbazar.

We are required to vote a grant for community kitchens without knowing the details of the scheme. The provision of 10 lakhs for merely meeting the preliminary expenses regarding preparation of records and assessment of claims regarding zemindaries looks heavy when we remember that our province is only about one-third of the parent province. The provision of close upon 25 lakhs for the execution of anti-malarial measures should be scrutinised as there is a tendency of money being spent more on establishment and reports than on actual work. It also needs close examination as malaria seems to be as rampant now as before in spite of anti-malarial operations of the past. On the other hand, there are glaring omissions of much-needed items of undisputed public welfare. A scheme, for instance, for providing Calcutta with an ample supply of pure milk, which could go a long way to fortify the health of the people, is conspicuous by its absence.

Sir, before I close I would like to dwell on a subject of paramount importance, viz., the Corporation of Calcutta. I find that step-motherly treatment accorded to the Corporation by the allien bureaucracy is still being continued. Its sources of revenue, Sir, are in need of immediate and substantial augmentation as it cannot surely be expected to make bricks without straw. I remember how the present Finance Minister pleaded for increased income for the Corporation and referred to the Motor Vehicles Tax. I remember how the present Chief Minister (as Chairman of the Finance Committee) championed the cause of the Corporation. Why then should they overlook its claims, especially when its population has increased to some 50 lakhs already? The Amusement Tax scheme was first adumbrated to finance free primary education by Mr. Biss. Cannot the Corporation have a share of it when Calcutta, the busy hive of life and labour, provides the major portion of the income of the Government? I would put a few straight questions in the expectation of straight replies: (1) What about compensation for damage to roads by war-time military traffic? (2) What about shares from Sales Tax, Amusement Tax, Motor Vehicles Tax and Betting Tax collections? Even the rates and taxes pertaining to this Assembly House are in arrears! What about paying up these legitimate dues? Surely we must give the Corporation a chance to discharge its duties and cannot ignore its claims to substantial financial assistance, particularly when it is catering for the needs of an increased and ever increasing population.

The Budget, Sir, appears to be full of hopes, not promises. The Hon'ble Minister has referred to "highest sense of integrity and keenest standard of efficiency" as essential qualities necessary for a "more balanced economy for our province." Unfortunately, these are the qualities in which, people think, officialdom is deficient and naturally the optimistic confidence felt by the Finance Minister is absent from many people's minds.

It has pained me to give expression to my disappointment and I hope the Hon'ble Finance Minister will understand and appreciate the feeling that actuates me. Nevertheless, I also realise that changed conditions have brought about unusual circumstances, that the previous Ministry was largely engaged in restoring the province to normal conditions, and that the present Cabinet has not been in office sufficiently long. Consequently, I must give credit to the Government and particularly to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, who is a practical and successful businessman,

for whatever provisions they have been able to make. I have merely invited attention to certain matters in order that shortcomings, defects and errors may be met and rectified so as to enable our province to grow and develop —a province which has contributed so largely to the attainment of freedom.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 25th February, 1948, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 25th February, 1948, at 4 p.m.

Present:

MR. SPEAKER (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 54 members.

General discussion of the budget.

Sri RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহাশয়, অর্থসচিব মহাশয় যে বাজেট উপস্থিত করেছেন, তারজন্য তাঁকে অভিনন্দন জ্ঞাপন করছি। মাত্র কয়েক মাস হ'ল এই প্রদেশে কংগ্রেসী সরকার প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়েছে, এবং এই স্বল্পকাল ও বহুবিধ বাধা ও অসুবিধার মধ্যে কংগ্রেস সরকারকে কাজ করতে হয়েছে। এ সকল সত্ত্বেও এই রকম বাজেট উপস্থিত করতে পারা কৃতিত্বের পরিচায়ক। পূর্ব্বে বাজেটের মধ্যে থাকত গতানুগতিকতা, আসল সমস্যা এড়িয়ে যাবার বা ধামাচাপা দেওয়ার চেষ্টা, দূরদৃষ্টির অভাব এবং দেশবাসীর সুখ দুঃখের প্রতি সহানুভূতির অভাব। আলোচ্য বাজেটে অর্থসচিব মহাশয় সাহসের সঙ্গে আসল সমস্যার সম্মুখীন হবার ও তাহার সমাধান করার চেষ্টা করেছেন, গতানুগতিক পদ্ধতি বাদ দিয়ে নূতন পথে অগ্রসর হবার চেষ্টা করেছেন।

তবু কয়েকটি বিষয়ে অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এবং সেই সঙ্গে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা দরকার মনে করি। পুলিশ বিভাগে দুর্নীতি ও অন্যায় অত্যাচারের প্রাবল্য একটুও কমেছে বলে মনে হয় না। সাধারণভাবে পলিশ কর্ম্মচারিগণ এখনও যেন অনুভব করেন না যে যুগপরিবর্ত্তন হয়েছে। এতদিন বিদেশী সরকারের ভৃত্য হিসাবে তাঁরা দেশবাসীর উপর যে অত্যাচার নির্যাতন চালিয়ে এসেছেন, তার দিন ফুরিয়েছে, একথা যেন অনেকে এখনও বুঝতে পারেন না। দেশবাসীর সঙ্গে যে সহানুভূতিহীন এমন কি হৃদয়হীন ব্যবহারের জন্য পুলিশ কর্ম্মচারীরা কুখ্যাত ছিলেন, আজও বহুলভাবে সে ব্যবহারের পরিবর্ত্তন হয়নি। আজও পুলিশ কর্ম্মচারীরা নিজদিগকে দেশের প্রভু বলে মনে করেন, দেশের সেবক বলে মনে করতে শেখেননি। এর একটা কারণ এই যে ১৯৪২ সাল ও তৎপরবর্ত্তী কালে যে সব পুলিশ দেশের উপর বর্ব্বর অত্যাচারের বন্যা বইয়ে দিয়েছিল তাদের অনেকে এখনও সেই সেই অত্যাচারিত অঞ্চলে বহাল তবিয়তে বিরাজ করছে। আজও যদি এই সব কর্ম্মচারী তাদের অমানুষিক অত্যাচারের ক্ষেত্রে অবাধে বুক ফুলিয়ে বিচরণ করে, তবে দেশবাসী কিভাবে বুঝবে যে বিদেশী রাজত্বের অবসান হয়েছে? বিদেশী শাসনের অবসানের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এদের চাকরীরও অবসান হওয়া উচিত ছিল। তাত হয়ইনি, অধিকন্তু দেশবাসীর উপর অকথ্য অত্যাচার করে বিদেশী প্রভুর কাছে যে পুরস্কার লাভ করেছিল আজও সেই পরস্কার ভোগ করছে। কেউ বা চাকরীতে উন্নতিলাভ করেছে, কেউ বা অন্য পুরস্কার পেয়েছে। এই সব লোকের দেশবাসীর রক্তরঞ্জিত হস্তে আজও যদি শাসনভার রাখা হয়, কঠোর শাস্তির পরিবর্ত্তে যদি পদোন্নতির পরস্কার এরা ভোগ করে, তার চেয়ে দুর্ভাগ্যের বিষয় আর কিছুই হতে পারে না। দেশের উপর মনুষ্যত্ব বিরোধী এই সব অত্যাচারী কর্ম্মচারীদিগকে অপসারিত করে ন্যায় ও সাধুপ্রকৃতি এবং কর্ম্মদক্ষ কর্ম্মচারীদিগকে উৎসাহিত করতে হবে। তবেই দেশের ভাল কাজে পুলিশের সহায়তা পাওয়া যাবে।

আর একটা কথা, পুলিশের অত্যাচারে মৃত ব্যক্তিদের পরিবারবর্গ এবং অক্ষম লোকদিগকে উপযুক্ত ক্ষতিপূরণ বা ভরণপোষণের ব্যবস্থা করা অবিলম্বে দরকার। এবিষয়ে ইতিমধ্যে যথেষ্ট দেরী হয়ে গেছে, আর বিলম্ব করা সমীচীন নয়। যে সব প্রতিষ্ঠান ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হয়েছে, সেগুলিও যাতে ক্ষতিপূরণ পায় এবং পুনরায় দেশের হিতকর কাজে নামতে পারে তারও ব্যবস্থা অবিলম্বে দরকার।

যে সব উগ্র সাম্প্রদায়িক মনোবৃত্তিসম্পন্ন সরকারী কর্ম্মচারী আছে, তাদের বিশেষ সাবধান করে দেওয়া দরকার। পর্ব্বে যাই হয়ে থাক না কেন যাতে সাম্প্রদায়িকতা আর না প্রশ্রয় পায় তার জন্যে কঠোর ব্যবস্থা নিতে হবে। গ্রাম্য পুলিশ; চৌকিদার ও দফাদারদের বেতন সরকার থেকেই দেওয়া উচিত মনে করি।

Medical বিভাগে যে ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে তা প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় কম হয়েছে। অনেক হাঁসপাতাল ও dispensaryর ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে। অবশ্য এক বছরে তা হবে না। এ কাজ দীর্ঘ সময় সাপেক্ষ এবং প্রয়োজনীয় অর্থ সংগ্রহের সমস্যাও বড় কম নয়, তবু এ বিষয়ে সরকারের আরও বেশী অবহিত হওয়া দরকার। অনেক private Hospital ও dispensary আছে, এগুলির জন্য যথাসাধ্য অর্থ সাহায্য করা উচিত।

Public Healthএ আরও মনোযোগ দেওয়া দরকার। বর্ত্তমানে গ্রামে পানীয় জলের অব্যবস্থার কথা কারো অজানা নেই। এসম্বন্ধে বলতে চাই যে tube-wellএর ব্যাপারটি centralised না রেখে District Board, Municipality এবং অন্যান্য local bodyর হাতে দেওয়া ভাল। এমন স্থান আছে যেখানে tube-well স্থায়ী হয় না, সেখানে tube-well না করে reserved tank-এর ব্যবস্থাই শ্রেয়ঃ। এমন অনেক জায়গা আছে যেখানে লোক ক্যানেলের জল পান করে। সে সব স্থানে ক্যানেল পরিষ্কার রাখলে পানীয় জল পাবার সুবিধা হয়। দৃষ্টান্ত স্বরূপ বলা যায় যে দেনান থেকে প্রায় মেদিনীপুর পর্য্যন্ত যে Midnapur Canal আছে উহার দুই পার্শ্ববর্ত্তী গ্রামের লোকজন এই ক্যানালের জল পান করে। কিন্তু ঐ ক্যানালে পানা জন্মানর জন্য ঐ জল অব্যবহার্য্য হয়ে গেছে, ফলে লোকের বিশেষ অসুবিধা হয়েছে। এই ক্যানালের পানা পরিষ্কার করে দিলে লোকে পানীয় জল পেয়ে সুখী হবে; তাছাড়া নৌকা চলাচলেরও সুবিধা হবে। Epidemic হলে যথেষ্ট প্রতিষেধকের ব্যবস্থা যাতে হয় তার দিকে নজর দেওয়া উচিত। Bleeching powder প্রভৃতি আরও বেশী পরিমাণে সরবরাহ করা আবশ্যক।

রাস্তাঘাট সম্পর্কে একথা বলা দরকার যে সরকার থেকে একটা ব্যাপক scheme করা দরকার। কোথায় কোথায় রাস্তা হওয়া আগে দরকার। এমন অনেক থানা আছে যেখানে হয়ত এক ইঞ্চিও পাকা অথবা ভাল রাস্তা নেই। আবার অনেক থানাতে হয়ত ভাল ভাল রাস্তা আছে। সরকার থেকে সবদিক বিবেচনা করে এমন একটা পরিকল্পনা করা আবশ্যক, যাতে রাস্তাঘাট তৈরী দেশের সর্ব্বাঙ্গীণ কল্যাণ আনয়ন করে। এমন না হয় যে কোন কোন জায়গা অবহেলায় এক পাশে পড়ে রইল। খাল, নালা সম্পর্কে আরও বেশী টাকা বরাদ্দ এবং আরও বেশী দৃষ্টিপাত করা উচিত। বহু খাল, নালা বহুদিন থেকে আদৌ সংস্কার হয়নি, সেগুলি মজে হেজে গিয়ে উপকারের বদলে অপকারই করছে। খাল, নালা সংস্কার না করতে পারলে "অধিক মৎস্য ফলাও" আন্দোলন শুধু কথার কথা হয়ে থাকবে। খাল, নালা ব্যাপারেও একটা ব্যাপক পরিকল্পনা করে priority list করা উচিত। এই সম্পর্কে বলতে চাই যে খাল, নালা বা বাঁধ করতে গিয়ে যাদের জমি ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হয় তাদিগকে যথাসম্ভব শীঘ্র ক্ষতিপূরণ দেওয়া উচিত। এবিষয়ে লালফিতার দৌরাত্ম্য যত কমান যায় ততই ভাল। মহাশয়, আপনি শুনে অবাক হবেন যে Cossye এবং Durbachati remodelling হয়েছে আজ থেকে পাঁচ বছর আগে এবং এই জন্যে বহু লোকের জমি নষ্ট হয়েছে। অনেকে বিশেষ ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হয়েছে, বহু লোককে বাস ঘরবাড়ী ছেড়ে চলে যেতে হয়েছে, কিন্তু আজ পর্য্যন্ত তাদের ক্ষতিপূরণের ব্যাপার লালফিতার জালে চাপা পড়েই আছে। পাঁচ বছরের মধ্যেও সুদক্ষ কর্ম্মচারী ও সুদক্ষ বিভাগ ক্ষতিপূরণ ব্যাপারটা নিষ্পত্তি করতে পারলেন না।

কৃষি খাতেও যে ব্যয় বরাদ্দ হয়েছে তার অধিক হওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয় এবং যে ব্যয় বরাদ্দ হয়েছে তাও যাতে যথার্থ ব্যয় হয় সে দিকেও দৃষ্টি রাখা দরকার। জেলায় জেলায়, মহকুমায় মহকুমায় যে সব agricultural officer আছেন তাঁরা কৃষিকার্য্যের কিছুই উন্নতি করতে পারেননি। তাঁদের উচিত গ্রামে আদর্শ কৃষিক্ষেত্র স্থাপন করে হাতেকলমে উন্নত বৈজ্ঞানিক প্রণালীর চাষবাসের উপযোগিতা দেখিয়ে দেওয়া। গ্রাম থেকে গরু চালান দেওয়া বন্ধ করা এবং ভাল ষাঁড় সরবরাহ করা একান্ত আবশ্যক। যথা সময়ে যাতে ভাল বীজ কৃষক সহজে পেতে পারে তার ব্যবস্থা হওয়া দরকার। কয়েকটি জেলায় হনুমানের অত্যাচারে সব্জী চাষ বন্ধ হতে বসেছে। একটা ব্যাপক পরিকল্পনা নিয়ে সরকারকে হনুমান ধ্বংসের ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে। নিয়ন্ত্রিত মূল্যে কৃষির যন্ত্রপাতি সরবরাহ করতে হবে। কার্পাস চাষে উৎসাহ দিতে হবে এবং এই উদ্দেশ্যে উপযুক্ত কার্পাস বীজ সরবরাহ করতে হবে। Jute Restriction অবিলম্বে প্রত্যাহার করা উচিত।

মাছের চাষ যাতে বাড়ে তার জন্য উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা করা একান্ত আবশ্যক। Private firmকে এজন্য কম সুদে বা বিনাসুদে loan দেওয়া উচিত।

সমবায় বিভাগের অনেক উন্নতি দরকার। এখন যা আছে তার অনেকখানিই সাজানো ব্যাপার। বর্ত্তমানে অনেক সমিতিতে অনভিপ্রেত ব্যক্তিরা ঢুকে পড়েছে। উপযুক্ত audit এবং checkingএর ব্যবস্থা না

থাকায় অবাঞ্ছিত লোক ভাল সুযোগ পাচ্ছে; এর প্রতিকার দরকার। ব্যাপক পরিকল্পনা না নিয়ে Multi-purpose Society স্থাপন করা একান্ত আবশ্যক। এর মধ্য দিয়া অন্যান্য বিষয় ছাড়াও বয়স্কদের শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থাও অগ্রসর হবে।

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Sri RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: Two minutes more, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have allowed you ten minutes. Your party has fixed the time.

Sri RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: Two minutes only.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, I give you two minutes.

Sri RAJANI KANTA PRAMANIK: শিক্ষা বিষয়ে বরাদ্দের পরিমাণ অত্যন্ত কম হয়েছে। প্রাথমিক শিক্ষকদের বেতন সম্পর্কে উদার বিবেচনার দরকার। স্কুল কমিটি গঠন ও শিক্ষক নিয়োগ ব্যাপারে District Magistrateএর হস্তক্ষেপ যেন একেবারেই না থাকে। রাজনৈতিক কারণে যে সব স্কুলের সরকারী সাহায্য বন্ধ ছিল, সে সমুদয় অর্থ সংশ্লিষ্ট স্কুলগুলিকে দেওয়া উচিত। শিক্ষকদিগকে, কি প্রাথমিক ও মধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক অথবা কলেজের অধ্যাপকগণ, এঁদের যে হারে dearness allowance দেওয়া হয় তা একজন পিয়নের তুলনায় অনেক কম। কলেজের অধ্যাপক সরকারী dearness allowance পান ১০৲ হারে এবং স্কুলের শিক্ষক পান ৫ টাকা এবং তার চেয়েও নিম্ন হারে। এখনও শিক্ষকদিগকে এই শোচনীয়রূপ অল্প ভাতা দেওয়া আমাদের পক্ষে কলঙ্কস্বরূপ। অবিলম্বে এর প্রতিকার হওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয়।

Revenue বিভাগ সম্পর্কে বলা যায় যে সরকারী loan আদায় বিষয়ে একটি নীতি সুস্পষ্টভাবে ব্যক্ত হওয়া উচিত। এবং উপযুক্ত ক্ষেত্রে যাতে রেহাই দেওয়া হয় তার নিশ্চয়তা থাকা চাই। এবং নীতি নির্দ্ধারণ না হওয়া পর্য্যন্ত loan আদায় স্থগিত রাখা বাঞ্ছনীয়। যেসব জায়গায় খাজনার হার অত্যন্ত বেশী, যেমন তুঁতের হার, সেসব স্থানে হার কমানর বিধান থাকা দরকার।

যেসব সমালোচনা করা হ'ল, তা সমর্থক হিসাবে গঠনমূলক মনোবৃত্তি নিয়ে করা হ'ল। এই সরকার লোকায়ত্ত জনপ্রিয় সরকার। জনসাধারণের সর্ব্ববিধ উন্নতি এই সরকারের লক্ষ্য। এই সম্পর্কে মাননীয় সদস্য জ্যোতি বসুর একটি উক্তির কথা মনে হচ্ছে। তিনি বলেছেন যে relief ব্যাপারে সরকারের যে নীতি তাতে দুর্ভিক্ষ দেখা দিবে। এ সম্পর্কে তাঁর দল,—denial policy, যাকে বলা যায় প্রবঞ্চনা নীতি--তাকে সমর্থন করে যেভাবে দুর্ভিক্ষ নিয়ে আসতে সহায়তা করেছিলেন, তারপর তাঁর মুখে এমন অভিযোগ শোভা পায় না। সম্প্রতি তাঁর দলের লোকেরা তমলুক মহকুমায় নন্দীগ্রাম থানার ভাগচাষীদিগকে বিপথে পরিচালিত করে সম্পূর্ণ ধান মাঠ থেকে তুলে নিয়ে গিয়ে অব্যবস্থার মধ্যে গাদা করে রেখে যেভাবে হাজার হাজার মণ ধান পচিয়ে নষ্ট করেছেন এবং তাতে সন্দেহ হয় দুর্ভিক্ষ সৃষ্টি করাই হয়ত তাঁদের অভিপ্রায়। এই রকম ধ্বংসমূলক মনোভাবপ্রসূত সমালোচনার দ্বারা কোনও লাভ হবার সম্ভাবনা নেই।

Janab MAHAMMAD SAYEED MIA: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, বর্ত্তমান বাজেটের বক্তৃতা প্রদানকালে আমাদের অর্থসচিব মহোদয় গান্ধীজীর পবিত্র স্মৃতির প্রতি যে অকৃত্রিম শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলী দিয়াছেন তজ্জন্য তাঁহাকে অশেষ ধন্যবাদ দিতেছি ও তাঁহার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমরাও গান্ধীজীর পবিত্র আত্মার শান্তির জন্য প্রার্থনা জানাইতেছি। গান্ধীজী নিতান্ত দীন মজুর ও ত্যাগী ফকিরের ন্যায় সামান্য কৌপীন বস্ত্রে যে অপূর্ব্ব ত্যাগের মহিমা দেখাইয়া গিয়াছেন এবং ভারতের চল্লিশ কোটি নরনারীর উদ্ধারের জন্য যে বিরাট আদর্শ রাখিয়া গিয়াছেন জগতের ইতিহাসে তাহা বিরল। গান্ধীজীর তিরোধানের পর ভারতের সকল নেতাই সমস্বরে ঘোষণা করিয়াছেন যে গান্ধীজীর পুণ্য শিক্ষা ও আদর্শ গ্রহণ ও অনুসরণ করিলেই তাঁহার প্রতি প্রকৃত সম্মান দেখান হইবে। সভাপতি মহোদয়, আমি অর্থসচিব মহোদয়কে কি জিজ্ঞাসা করিতে পারি যে আমাদের এই স্বাধীন বাংলার ভাগ্য-নিয়ন্ত্রণকারী তাঁহার এই প্রথম বিরাট বাজেট রচনায় ভারতের মুক্তিদাতা ও ত্রাণকর্ত্তা গান্ধীজীর পূত ও পবিত্র আদর্শ কতদূর অনুসরণ ও কার্য্যকরী করিয়াছেন এবং গত দুই শতাব্দী ধরিয়া বিদেশী শাসন ও শোষণে জর্জ্জরিত বাংলার দীন মজুর ও চাষী জনসাধারণের উপকার ও উদ্ধারের জন্য বাজেটে কি পরিমাণ টাকা বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন? তাহার সম্পূর্ণ বাজেট পড়িয়া এই ধারণাই হইয়াছে যে পল্লী বাংলার বহুদিনের বড় বড় সমস্যাগুলিকে সম্পূর্ণ

বাদ দিয়া এবং অন্ততঃপক্ষে তাহাদের একটীকেও বাজেটে গ্রহণ না করিয়া কেবল বড় বড় নূতন নূতন স্কীম (scheme), পরিকল্পনা ও সংগঠনের নামে বিভিন্ন খাতে অজস্র টাকা উড়াইবার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন। আর চির উপেক্ষিত ও বঞ্চিত দেশবাসীকে দিয়াছেন কেবল ভবিষ্যতের আশা ও আশ্বাস। অর্থসচিব মহোদয়ের মতে তাঁহার বাজেট Commonman's budget কিন্তু প্রকৃতপক্ষে এই বাজেট ধনী, সুবিধাবাদী ও পুঁজি-বাদীদের স্বার্থসিদ্ধির অনুকল্পেই রচিত হইয়াছে। ইহার দ্বারা ধনী আরও ধনী হইবে এবং গরীবেরা আরও গরীব হইবে এবং যারা অনুন্নত ও পশ্চাৎপদ তাহারা কোন সুবিধাই পাইবে না। পল্লীবাসীদের জীবনধারা, তাহাদের প্রয়োজন ও অভাব-অভিযোগের প্রতি লক্ষ্য রাখিয়া এই বাজেট তৈয়ারী হয় নাই। একথা সত্য যে পূর্ব্বেকার অনেক বাজেট অপেক্ষা অর্থসচিব মহোদয় এই বাজেট নানা দিক দিয়া উন্নত করার চেষ্টা করিয়াছেন ও বিভিন্ন খাতে ও বিশেষভাবে দামোদর ও অন্যান্য কয়েকটী পরিকল্পনায় বহু টাকা বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন, একজন্য তিনি আমাদের ধন্যবাদের পাত্র। কিন্তু অতীতে এই ধরণের বড় বড় পরিকল্পনার নামে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা অপব্যয় হইয়াছে ও দেশবাসী শুধু প্রবঞ্চনাই লাভ করিয়াছে এবং আজ পর্য্যন্ত তাহাদের অত্যাবশ্যক কোন একটী বড় সমস্যার সমাধান হয় নাই। আজ দেশবাসী চরম অন্নাভাবে, বস্ত্রাভাবে, শিক্ষাভাবে ও স্বাস্থ্যাভাবে জর্জ্জরিত হইয়া ধ্বংসের পথে চলিয়াছে। কিন্তু অর্থসচিব মহোদয় সেই ধ্বংসের পথ রোধের জন্য বাজেটে গঠনমূলক কোন পরিকল্পনাই গ্রহণ করেন নাই। বিদেশী সাম্রাজ্যবাদী ইংরেজ নিজেদের শাসন ও শোষণের সুবিধার জন্য যে মারাত্মক জমিদারী-প্রথা প্রবর্ত্তিত করিয়া সোনার বাংলাকে শাসন করিয়া গিয়াছে তাহার উচ্ছেদের ব্যবস্থা এই বাজেটে নাই। এই ধ্বংসকারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদের জন্য বহুকাল যাবৎ দেশব্যাপী আন্দোলন হইয়াছে এবং লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়ে বহু কমিটীর গঠন ও রিপোর্ট প্রদানের পালাও শেষ হইয়াছে। কিন্তু বাংলার নিতান্ত দুর্ভাগ্য যে এই অভিশপ্ত জমিদারী আইনের জগদ্দল পাথর আজও বাংলার বুকে চাপিয়া রহিল। অর্থসচিব মহোদয় বোধহয় বড় বড় ধনী জমিদার ও পুঁজিবাদীদের স্বার্থ ও সুখ-সুবিধার জন্যই এই বাজেটে জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। যে অবৈতনিক বাধ্যতামূলক প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার প্রবর্ত্তনকে বাংলার সকল সমস্যা সমাধানের প্রাথমিক ভিত্তি বলিয়া এতকাল ঘোষণা ও প্রচার করা হইয়াছে এবং যে শিক্ষা দ্বারা যুগ-যুগান্তরের পুঞ্জীভূত কুসংস্কার ও মূর্খতা দূর করিয়া নয়া বাংলার গোড়াপত্তন হইবে, সেই অপরিহার্য্য শিক্ষা প্রবর্ত্তনের গুরু দায়িত্ব এড়ান হইয়াছে। কেবলমাত্র ভূমিকা স্বরূপ বনিয়াদী ও ট্রেনিং শিক্ষায় কতকগুলি টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে।

অর্থসচিব মহাশয় জনস্বাস্থ্যের খাতে বিভিন্ন বিষয়ে কিছু কিছু টাকা বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন ও ইউনিয়নে ইউনিয়নে ডাক্তারখানা স্থাপনের পরিকল্পনাও গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন। সেজন্য তাঁহাকে ধন্যবাদ দিতেছি। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় যে সমস্ত ডাক্তারখানা পূর্ব্ব হইতেই চলিয়া আসিতেছে তাহার প্রত্যেকটীই ঔষধ অভাবে প্রায় অচল হইয়া পড়িয়াছে এবং গভর্ণমেণ্টের টাকা কেবল ডাক্তারের বেতন ও অন্যান্য খরচেই শেষ হইয়া যাইতেছে। যে ভীষণ ম্যালেরিয়ার আক্রমণে গ্রামকে গ্রাম উজাড় হইয়া যাইতেছে অথচ উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করিলেই যে ব্যাধি সম্পূর্ণরূপে নিবারণ করিয়া প্রতি বৎসর লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের জীবন রক্ষা করা যায় সেই ধ্বংসকারী ম্যালেরিয়ার বিরুদ্ধে দেশব্যাপী অভিযান চালাইবার পরিকল্পনা বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে গ্রহণ করা হয় নাই।

সারা বাংলায় বস্ত্রের অভাবে হাহাকার উঠিয়াছে এবং উলঙ্গ নরনারী আজ গৃহের বাহির হইতে পারিতেছে না এবং তাঁতিরা সূতার অভাবে বেকার অবস্থায় অনাহারে দিন কাটাইতেছে। এই উলঙ্গ ও বুভুক্ষিত জনগণকে কুটীর-শিল্প দ্বারা জীবনধারণের সামান্যতম সুযোগ প্রদান ও তাহাদিগকে বস্ত্র ও সূতা সরবরাহের কোন ব্যবস্থাই এই বাজেটে করা হয় নাই। কেবল আশার ছলনায় দেশবাসীকে আর কতকাল ভুলাইয়া রাখা হইবে এবং কবে তাহাদের দুঃখের রজনী প্রভাত হইবে? Experience has taught me that those who feel sorrow, and wish to act kindly do not wait till tomorrow. মোটের উপর সাম্রাজ্যবাদী ইংরেজ আমলের বাজেটের টাকা যেভাবে বড় বড় পরিকল্পনার অজুহাতে কেবল কৃষি, শিল্প, জলসেচ ও স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগের বিপুল ব্যয় বহনে ও রাজকর্ম্মচারীদের মোটা বেতন ও ভাতায় অপব্যয় হইয়া গিয়াছে, বর্ত্তমান বাজেটের কোটি কোটি টাকাও সেইভাবেই অপব্যয় হইবার যথেষ্ট ভয় ও আশঙ্কা রহিয়াছে।

সভাপতি মহোদয়! আমি অবশেষে একটী গুরুতর সমস্যার উল্লেখ করিয়া আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করিতেছি। অর্থসচিব মহাশয় তপশীল শ্রেণী, পাহাড়িয়া ও মুসলমানদের শিক্ষার জন্য মাত্র ১৩॥ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করার উদ্দেশ্য সম্বন্ধে তাঁহার বাজেট বক্তৃতায় বলিয়াছেন—"For the promotion of education amongst those sections of society which are educationally and economically backward and this will contribute towards the special needs of the scheduled castes, hillmen and Moslems" এই ১৩॥ লক্ষ টাকা গরীব, অনুন্নত ও পশ্চাদপদ শ্রেণীর মধ্যে কোন্ শ্রেণীর কি special needs

মিটাইবার জন্য ব্যয় হইবে ও কিভাবে ঐ টাকা বিলি ও ব্যয় হইবে তাহা আমরা জানি না। মুসলমান ধর্ম্মশিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলির জন্য চিরপ্রচলিত পৃথক বরাদ্দের হেড শূন্য রাখিয়া তাহাদিগকে তপশীল ও পাহাড়িয়া শ্রেণীভুক্ত কেন করা হইল তাহা আমাদের ক্ষুদ্র বুদ্ধিতে বুঝিয়া উঠিতে পারিতেছি না। তবে সরকার পক্ষের কোন কোন বক্তার বাজেট বক্তৃতা হইতে এইটুকু জানিতে পারিয়াছি যে এখন হইতে সাম্প্রদায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সরকারী সাহায্য দেওয়া হইবে না। সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমরা অর্থসচিব মহোদয়ের নিকট সাম্প্রদায়িক কথাটার সূত্র ও বিশদ ব্যাখ্যা জানিতে চাই। Religious, cultural and communal এই তিনটী শব্দের অর্থে ও ব্যবহারে কি কোন পার্থক্য ও তারতম্য নাই? উহাদের মধ্যে কি কোন সীমারেখা নাই? দেশের বর্ত্তমান দূষিত আবহাওয়ায় সাম্প্রদায়িকতা বা Communalism বলিতে এক সম্প্রদায়ের বিরুদ্ধে অন্য সম্প্রদায়ের হিংসাত্মক ও বিদ্বেষমূলক ফ্যাসিষ্ট উগ্র মনোবৃত্তিই বুঝাইয়া থাকে বলিয়া আমাদের বিশ্বাস। কোন ধর্ম্মশিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের বেলায় সাম্প্রদায়িক শব্দটার কদর্থ ও অপপ্রয়োগ করিয়া উক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের সাহায্য হইতে বঞ্চিত করতঃ উহার অস্তিত্বের বিলোপ ঘটাইলে উক্ত সম্প্রদায়ের উপর কি চরম অবিচার করা হইবে না? বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে সংস্কৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান ও টোলগুলিতে পূর্ব্বাপেক্ষা বেশী টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। অথচ মুসলমান ধর্ম্মীয় প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলির সাহায্য বন্ধ করিয়া দেওয়া হইবে। এইরূপ পক্ষপাত ও বৈষম্যমূলক আচরণ বর্ত্তমান যুগের কোন সভ্য ও গণতান্ত্রিক রাষ্ট্রের নিকট আশা করা যায় না। পশ্চিম বাংলার মুসলমানেরা রাষ্ট্রের পরম ভক্ত ও অনুগত প্রজা হিসাবে কোন প্রকার দুষ্ট সাম্প্রদায়িকতাকে আশ্রয়, প্রশ্রয় বা উৎসাহ মোটেই দিতেছে না ও দিবে না। যে উন্মত্ত ও বিষাক্ত সাম্প্রদায়িকতার আগুণে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের ধন প্রাণ ধ্বংস হইয়া গিয়াছে এবং যাহার ফলে স্বয়ং মহাত্মা গান্ধীকেও প্রাণ বলি দিতে হইয়াছে, সেই মারাত্মক সাম্প্রদায়িকতাকে ভারতের বুকে কিছুতেই স্থান দেওয়া বা কোনক্রমেই বরদাস্ত করা চলিতে পারে না। ইহাকে অনতিবিলম্বে সমূলে উৎপাটিত করার জন্য ভারতের চল্লিশ কোটি নরনারীকে জীবনের পবিত্রতম ব্রত স্বরূপে গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে। এবিষয়ে কাহারও মতভেদ থাকা বা হওয়া উচিত নহে। এই ঘৃণিত সাম্প্রদায়িকতাকে উচ্ছেদের জন্য আমাদের রাষ্ট্রকে আমাদের সর্ব্বশক্তি দিয়া সাহায্য করার প্রতিশ্রুতি দিতেছি। আমাদের অর্থসচিব মহোদয়কে সনির্ব্বন্ধ অনুরোধ যে মুসলমান ধর্ম্মীয় ও সাংস্কৃতিক প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিকে বাঁচাইয়া রাখিবার জন্য বাজেটে পৃথকভাবে প্রয়োজনীয় টাকার বরাদ্দ করিয়া মুসলমানদের চিরকৃতজ্ঞভাজন হইবেন। মাদ্রাজ কংগ্রেস গভর্ণমেণ্ট আপাততঃ পাঁচ বৎসরের জন্য মুসলমান ধর্ম্মশিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিকে সরকারী সাহায্য দিবার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন। আমরা আশা করি আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্ট মাদ্রাজ গভর্ণমেণ্টের উক্ত আদর্শ গ্রহণ করিয়া মুসলমানদের আশীর্ব্বাদ লাভ করুন, ইহাই অর্থসচিব মহোদয়ের নিকট প্রার্থনা জানাইতেছি।

Sri J. C. GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have heard the criticisms of the budget, helpful, unhelpful; congratulations we have heard, as also notes of disappointment and announcements as some of my friends have pointed out. Sir, in the present unsettled condition of the country, particularly due to the hasty dismemberment of this province, it is a difficult task for anybody to make accurate estimates of receipts. Mr. Rafique has criticised the estimates of receipts but he was very wrong in his arithmetic. He asked the Hon'ble Finance Minister as to why he did not put double the figure of the receipts between 15th August and 31st March, conveniently forgetting that that covers a period of seven and a half months. And the Hon'ble Finance Minister could not possibly have put that estimate, but at the same time we feel that our Finance Minister has been overcautious as regards estimates of receipts.

Sir, we have won the first round: we have got the political freedom after ridding the country of foreign domination but we have yet to achieve real freedom and real independence. A wretched legacy has been left: there is dire poverty amongst the masses which constitute 90 per cent. of the population: want of food, want of cloth—the life in the province has been shattered so to say; and illiteracy is still appalling. If we have got to tackle this in order to make independence and freedom real we want money, more money and as much money as we can get. It is therefore necessary today to concentrate our attention as to how we can improve the finances of the province. On that point I would ask the Finance Minister to see that the present system of Customs revenue is changed. You know, Sir, that Customs revenue is allocated on the acreage of

jute which has almost disappeared. I think the Central Government, who cannot deny the responsibility, indirect though it may be, of dismemberment of the province, ought to agree to allocate a portion of the Customs revenue having regard to the total amount of customs realised from the Calcutta Port, not on the basis of jute acreage or even of fabricated jute.

Then again, the next source is Income-tax. As regards Income-tax revenue, we ought to put a very clear demand for getting a bigger share. We ought not to go with a begging bowl to the Central Government but we can point out that we are entitled to a share of the customs and income-tax revenue which accrues from this province of ours.

The next matter regarding finance we have got to look to is the land revenue. Sir, the abolition of the Permanent Settlement and the doing away with the intermediate rent-receiver as soon as and as early as possible is the only way to augment our revenue under that head, and I do hope the Ministry would not lose a day in putting into effect what has been accepted as Congress programme all over India.

There is another item to which I feel tempted to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. I mean, the receipt under Forest. You will find that in 1944-45 one crore of rupees was derived from Forest. It went down to 62 lakhs in 1946-47. Now we have got to augment our income by adopting a policy of increasing our Forest resources.

Then there is the question of other taxes and duties. Sir, my honourable friend Sri Annada Prasad Chowdhury pointed out the arrangements mentioned about the Betting Tax. How I wish that the present Ministry had tried to extract more money out of the Betting and Totalisator taxes. Then again without taxing the lower classes the higher denomination of amusement tickets may also be taxed. I may mention this that when I call upon the Ministry to undertake the Nation Saving schemes which cannot wait any longer, I feel it also my duty to offer constructive suggestions as to wherefrom they can possibly find their money. I know the Finance Minister will be able to find out money, more money, because he is a person who knows how to accumulate funds and is not an irresponsible spender also. But when I have indicated these sources for augmenting the income I must say that there is one head under which the Finance Minister should be prepared to lose 6 crores, and that is a very big proportion, I mean, under the Provincial Excise. Out of 6 crores of revenue, the Finance Minister will have to make up his mind to lose about 3 crores derived from country liquor and the country-fermented liquor. If we have got to be true to Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, we cannot possibly in this matter be negligent. Sir, I will mention that early in September, 1947, when there was a sudden and short outbreak of communal disturbance, I rang up the Belliaghata Camp and suggested to Mahatma Gandhi that the liquor shops in Calcutta should be closed. In that connection I mentioned that when Mr. Muhammed Ali was in charge, he closed them for four days, but he told me that he was losing Rs. 50,000 per day and the present Ministry might also point that out. Gandhiji is always calm, serene and controlled, but when I mentioned about losses, he showed annoyance and said, "Gupta, I am surprised that you can mention about these losses. What is 50 crores' loss to me? I have staked my life for it." Prohibition must be enforced and the Congress Ministry ought to do it. Therefore, they ought to be prepared to lose 3 crores there and implement this policy, save degradation and misery amongst the poorer classes, the labour classes and do honour to the memory of Gandhiji. So much for the receipts.

On the expenditure side, I have got to mention first the Extraordinary Charges in India. The heading is extraordinary and the charge is extraordinary and there is absolutely no justification for spending so much money under that head. Decontrol has been accepted. The control

business has brought in corruption and we have not been successful in control. We have not achieved the purpose for which control was meant, viz., helping the poor. If we have not succeeded in that, there is absolutely no reason for maintaining any staff, any expenses other than for the only necessity, that is food and cereals on which a Government may reasonably not like to take a chance. But what I say is this. If you have got to be successful with regard to the Civil Supplies Department, you cannot be successful by increasing expenditure, employing paid men, but you can only do so by mobilising co-operation of the entire public and that was what was offered, what has been offered by the public. During the coal crisis the public formed themselves into associations and solved the question and they have formed themselves into committees, but I do not know why nothing has been done as yet to utilise all these.

Sir, with regard to agriculture, which is the main thing to which we ought to look, there has been a better provision than before, but mere provision of money is not enough. We are tired of being told about schemes and provision of money. What we need is real action, real implementation of the policy and the sooner we do it the better with regard to agriculture.

Sir, we have got then to consider regarding industries. I do not think any ambitious scheme has been put regarding industries and it is no use putting any ambitious scheme. Big industrialists have no scope at least for the next two to three years. If you provide 10 crores of rupees, they cannot get plants, machinery, materials for the purpose of starting any big industry. Therefore, we shall have to concentrate upon the village industries, we shall have to concentrate upon utilising Indian resources, Indian labour and Indian things which are available, and for that purpose the Ministry have got so many Congressmen who have devoted their lives to village uplift work. Let them utilise these people Let them be guided by their experience in village uplift work and that is the real work that they will be able to do. There is no room for big schemes or there is no chance of anything being put into effect.

Sir, there is one other thing—Development Programme. An attractive programme has been put forward, but with regard to that I have got one criticism to offer. If you scrutinise the provision, you will find that in the Development Programme for planning under seven different heads 13½ lakhs has been provided. Sir, a Development Programme must be a co-ordinated programme. I cannot understand how separate provision for departmental planning will help. I say, that will not only not help but will certainly impede the progress of departmental programme.

While on industries, there is one question which the Congress Ministry have got to think about—it is the labour problem. I have no time at my disposal, but I commend to the Ministry the remarks that were made by the lady member representing the Calcutta Women's Constituency. She has suggested a very rational labour policy which the Ministry will do well to adopt. But with regard to the Development Programme, again I submit the planning must be a co-ordinated planning, not in the separate departments. Therein all expert advice should be obtained. There should be a permanent body which will continue the work. Planning should not change with the change of Ministry. It has been a matter of regret that some policies adopted by the last Ministry have been quickly changed by the new Ministry before they have been well settled in their saddle. It is bound to occur because, after all, every man has not his idea. We cannot blame for persons taking different points of view, but for planning, for really developing the resources of the country, we have got to do it.

Our hope lies in the irrigation projects. Bengal can only be saved by a rational irrigation policy. We are pinning our future and our faith on the Damodar Valley projects, but all these should be co-ordinated together and the Congress Ministry, if they have got to serve the 90 per cent. of the

people which alone is the only criterion to judge whether the budget is good or bad, will have to part with the stereotyped policy and re-orient the policy and take up a programme suited to the people, suited to the country.

Sir, with these words I must say that I join with the congratulatory portion and, at the same time, I am making the suggestions for the consideration of the Ministry.

Sri KANAI LAL DE: মাননীয় প্রমুখ মহাশয়, স্বাধীন বাংলার প্রথম বাজেট উত্থাপন করবার সুযোগ পাওয়ায় আমি মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয়কে অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। পরাধীন জাতির সুদীর্ঘ কাল জীবন মরণ সংগ্রামের পর লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের আত্মবলিদানের ভিত্তির উপর যুগাবতার মহাত্মা গান্ধীর বিরাট নেতৃত্বে দেশ স্বাধীন হয়েছে বটে, কিন্তু দেশবাসী এতদিন যে স্বাধীনতার স্বপ্ন দেখেছিল, দেশের যে রূপ তারা কল্পনা করেছিল সে রূপ ফুটিয়ে তোলার দায়িত্ব আমাদের। বাধা অপসারিত হয়েছে। এখন কংগ্রেসের পরিকল্পনা মত দেশকে গড়ে তুলতে হবে। সুতরাং এতকাল যে গতানুগতিকভাবে দেশের আয়-ব্যয়ের ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে, এখন আর তা হলে চলবে না। এখন দেশের আয়-ব্যয়ের এমন ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে, যাতে কংগ্রেসের আদর্শমত, নির্বাচনী ইস্তাহারের প্রতিশ্রুতিমত দেশকে গড়তে পারা যায়। কংগ্রেস এতকাল যে কৃষক-মজদুর-প্রজা রাজের স্বপ্ন দেখেছে, আমরা যেন সেই রাজ প্রতিষ্ঠিত করতে যত্নবান হই। তাই অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে অভিনন্দন জানাবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে একথা জানাতে বাধ্য হচ্ছি যে তাঁর বাজেটে সেই স্বপ্নের বাস্তব রূপ দেখবার বেশী আশা করতে পারছি না।

বাংলাদেশের ধ্বংসপ্রায় পল্লীগুলিকে পুনরুজ্জীবিত করবার জন্য অতি সামান্য মাত্রই ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। যে ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে, তাহা প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় অপ্রচুর। খাদি উৎপাদনের জন্য মাত্র চার লক্ষ টাকা ধরা হয়েছে। বাংলার বহু সহস্র গ্রামে যদি সূতা কাটা এবং তাঁত শিল্পকে পুনঃপ্রতিষ্ঠিত করতে হয়, তবে আরও বহু টাকা দরকার। এইরূপ, গুড় উৎপাদন এবং হাতে তৈরী কাগজ-শিল্পের জন্য সামান্য কিছু বরাদ্দ করে গঠনমূলক কার্য্যে উৎসাহ প্রদর্শন করার চেষ্টা হয়েছে। এইরূপে দেশের নষ্টপ্রায় শিল্প উদ্ধার করতে এবং গ্রামকে স্বাবলম্বী করতে ব্যাপক পরিকল্পনা নিয়ে কাজে লাগতে হয়। তারপর আমরা যুদ্ধোত্তর পরিকল্পনার কথা প্রসঙ্গে বলতে পারি এ বিভাগে কতকগুলি বড় বড় রাস্তার জন্য টাকা ধরা হয়েছে বটে এবং কয়েকটি সেচের পরিকল্পনাও করা হয়েছে বটে কিন্তু রাস্তার তুলনায় সেচ-ব্যবস্থায় বরাদ্দ অত্যন্ত কম। এবং দুঃখের বিষয় বাজেটে যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়, বস্তুতপক্ষে কাজে তাহা ব্যয় হয় না। সুতরাং এই বিভাগের জন্য যে টাকা ধরা হয়েছে তাহা যাতে এই বৎসরেই যথাযথ ব্যয়িত হয়, সে বিষয়ে দৃষ্টি রাখা প্রয়োজন। তা না হোলে বৎসরের পর বৎসর বাজেটের লাল নীল বইগুলির পৃষ্ঠায় টাকার অঙ্ক ছাপিয়ে কোন লাভ হবে না। যুদ্ধোত্তর পরিকল্পনায় বাংলার প্রতি ইউনিয়নে একটি দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয় এবং অন্ততঃ প্রতি থানায় একটি ক'রে Maternity এবং child-welfare clinic হওয়া দরকার। কিন্তু এর জন্য যে টাকা বরাদ্দ হয়েছে, তা অত্যন্ত অপ্রচুর।

এর পরে আমি Anti-Leprosy Scheme সম্বন্ধে কয়েকটি কথা বলব। অর্থসচিব মহাশয় জানেন কিনা বলতে পারি না পশ্চিম বাংলার মধ্যে বাঁকুড়া জেলায় কুষ্ঠরোগের প্রাবল্য অত্যন্ত বেশী। British Empire Leprosy Associationএর সাহায্যে যে survey করা হয়েছে, তাতে দেখা যায়, এক বাঁকুড়া জেলাতেই কুষ্ঠরোগীর সংখ্যা ৬০ হাজারের কম হবে না। এই বাঁকুড়ায় ২টি Leper Colony প্রতিষ্ঠা করবার প্রস্তাব হয়েছিল। তার মধ্যে একটি গৌরীপুরে মাত্র ১০০ রোগী থাকবার উপযোগী ক'রে প্রস্তুত হচ্ছে। কিন্তু পিয়ারডোবায় পরিত্যক্ত সুবিস্তৃত সামরিক ঘাঁটিতে ১০ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয়ে তদানীন্তন লীগ সরকার যে colonyর প্রস্তাব করেছিলেন, এবারকার বাজেটে দেখছি সে ব্যবস্থা পরিত্যক্ত হয়েছে। পিয়ারডোবার অধিকাংশ ঘরবাড়ী এখনও ব্যবহারোপযোগী আছে। সেখানেও Leper Colony প্রতিষ্ঠা করা বিশেষ আবশ্যক —এ বিষয়ে অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি।

কংগ্রেস দেশব্যাপী যে সকল দুর্নীতি নিবারণের জন্য এতকাল সংগ্রাম ক'রে এসেছে রাষ্ট্রের সম্পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা হাতে পেয়েও সে চেষ্টা আমরা করছি না। দৃষ্টান্তস্বরূপ আমি মাদকদ্রব্য ব্যবহার নিষিদ্ধ করার কথা বলতে পারি। আশা করেছিলাম যে আমাদের এই প্রথম বাজেটে অল্প সময় মধ্যে মাদক দ্রব্য ব্যবহার সম্পূর্ণ না হোক, বহুলাংশে নিষিদ্ধ হবে। কিন্তু তাহা হয়নি। একথা সত্য যে বহু হতভাগ্যের কুঅভ্যাসের ফলে তাদের কষ্টার্জিত বহু কোটি টাকা সরকারের হাতে আসে। মাদকতা নিবারণের ফলে হয়ত সরকারের ক্ষতি হতে পারে। কিন্তু জনসাধারণের স্বার্থরক্ষার জন্যই যে সরকার, সাধারণের নৈতিক অবনতির সহায়ক রাজস্বের প্রতি তার দৃষ্টি রাখা

চলে না। সেই জন্যই আমি বলব বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর উচিত মাদক দ্রব্যের ব্যবহার সম্পূর্ণ নিষিদ্ধ করা। এতে বাজেটে ঘাটতি হতে পারে, কিন্তু অন্যভাবে তা পূরণ করা যেতে পারে। আজ যদি পশ্চিম বাংলা সরকার মাদ্রাজ, যুক্তপ্রদেশের মত মাদক দ্রব্য বর্জ্জনের সিদ্ধান্ত করতেন, তাতে এক শ্রেণীর অসুবিধা হলেও এক বিরাট আদর্শ স্থাপন করা হত। আমরা হরিজন উন্নয়নের কথা বলি কিন্তু অবাধে মাদক দ্রব্য পাওয়ার সুযোগ থাকায় লক্ষ লক্ষ হরিজন ধ্বংসের পথে এগিয়ে চলেছে। মদ্যপানের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে জুয়াখেলা, ঘোড়দৌড়ের কথাও বলা যায়। উহাদেরও একেবারে বন্ধ করা উচিত এবং তার প্রাথমিক ব্যবস্থা হিসাবে এসবের উপর বেশী পরিমাণ কর ধার্য্য করা আবশ্যক। কিন্তু দুঃখের সহিত দেখছি--এ সম্বন্ধে ব্যবস্থা পূর্ব্বের মতই আছে। আমি প্রস্তাব করছি--যতদিন ইহা বন্ধ না করা হয়, এর উপর বেশী পরিমাণ কর ধার্য্য করা হোক। তাতে মদ্যপান রহিতের ফলে ঘাটতি রাজস্বের পরিমাণ বহু পরিমাণে পূরণ হবে।

তারপর বর্ত্তমান বৎসরের বাজেটে বিক্রয়-কর হ্রাস করবার কোন প্রস্তাব নেই। অন্যান্য প্রদেশের তুলনায় বাংলায় বিক্রয়করের হার অত্যন্ত বেশী। বাংলার জনসাধারণ এই করকে বিশেষ পছন্দ করে না। এই কর বিহারে টাকায় এক পয়সা হিসেবে আছে। আমাদেরও ইহা হ্রাস করা উচিত এবং কয়েকটী জিনিষের উপর এই কর উঠিয়ে দেওয়া উচিত। দৃষ্টান্ত স্বরূপ দিয়াশলাই, পুস্তক ও ঔষধের কথা বলতে পারি। পুস্তকের উপর ইহা কি অন্যায়ভাবে আদায় হয়, তা দেখাচ্ছি। একবার কাগজের উপর, তারপর ছাপার সময়েও নেওয়া হয় এবং তারপর পুস্তক বিক্রয়ের সময়। বিক্রয়-কর হ্রাস করলে রাজস্বের কিছু ঘাটতি পড়তে পারে বটে কিন্তু সেই ঘাটতি income-tax আদায়ের কড়াকড়ি ব্যবস্থা করতে পারলে তার থেকে প্রাপ্ত প্রাদেশিক অংশ থেকে পূরণ হতে পারে। ব্যবসায়িগণ কত রকম কৌশলে income-tax ফাঁকি দেয় তাহা অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের অজানা নেই। যাতে এইরূপ evasion ধরা পড়তে পারে, তার কড়াকড়ি ব্যবস্থা করা প্রয়োজন।

অল্প বেতনের সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন বৃদ্ধি করা যেমন প্রয়োজন তেমনি অপরদিকে অত্যধিক বেতনের সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন হ্রাস করা আবশ্যক।

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Sri KANAI LAL DE: Two minutes more, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

Sri KANAI LAL DE: বিভাগীয় কমিশনার এবং বিভিন্ন বিভাগের Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary ইত্যাদি অনাবশ্যক পদ লোপ করে ব্যয় সংকোচ করা যেতে পারে। গতানুগতিক পথের অনুবর্ত্তন না ক'রে, এ বিষয়ে ব্যবস্থা অবলম্বন করা চলতো।

আমাদের দেশে যে পরিমাণ শস্য উৎপন্ন হয়, তাতে পশ্চিম বাংলার সমস্ত লোকের অন্নসংস্থান হয় না ইতিমধ্যেই সরকার "Grow More Food" Campaign ক'রে কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় করেছেন কিন্তু বেশী শস্য ফলাতে পেরেছেন কি না জানি না। রংবেরংএর বিজ্ঞাপন ছাপিয়ে----

(The member again reached the time-limit.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Sri KANAI LAL DE: One minute more, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

Sri KANAI LAL DE: বিজ্ঞাপন ছাপিয়ে এবং ওচিকতক কর্ম্মচারীকে ঢাক পিটিয়ে বেড়াবার জন্য অযথা ব্রবণ ব্যয় না দিয়ে যদি গ্রামে গ্রামে জলসেচের সুব্যবস্থা করা যায় তাহলে শস্যের ঘাটতি পূরন হতে পারে। বাঁকুড়া, বীরভুম ইত্যাদির মত জেলায় যেখানে ভূমি অত্যন্ত উঁচু নীচু সেখানে ছোট ছোট জোড় এবং খাল বেঁধে জলসেচের ব্যবস্থা করা অত্যন্ত আবশ্যক। বড় বড় সেচ-পরিকল্পনায় টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে বটে কিন্তু এইরূপ ছোট ছোট পরিকল্পনায় যথেষ্ট টাকার বরাদ্দ করা হয়নি এবং tank improvement schemeএ আরও অধিক টাকা বরাদ্দ করা উচিত ছিল।

সিভিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগ সম্বন্ধে আমি একটা কথা বলব। শ্রীঅন্নদা প্রসাদ চৌধুরী মহাশয় বলেছেন যে বোম্বেতে এক টন ধান হতে চাল তৈরী করতে ৯৲ টাকা লওয়া হয় কিন্তু আমাদের দেশে মণকরা ১৲ টাকা অর্থাৎ প্রতি

টন ২৭৲ টাকার মত। এই হার হ্রাস করবার জন্য পূর্বতন মন্ত্রী-সভা চাউল-কল মালিকদের নিকট tender চেয়েছিলেন। এই মন্ত্রী-সভারও এবিষয়ে চেষ্টা করা দরকার। এই হার হ্রাস করতে পারলে সরকারের কয়েক লক্ষ টাকা সাশ্রয় হতে পারে।

তারপর, শিক্ষা বিভাগে, বিশেষতঃ বয়স্কদের শিক্ষা এবং নয়া তালিমি শিক্ষার জন্য আরও বেশী অর্থের ব্যবস্থা করা আবশ্যক। সরকারের কর্তব্য একটী পঞ্চবার্ষিক পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন করে কাজ করা এবং সমগ্র প্রদেশে কংগ্রেস-প্রবর্তিত নয়া তালিমি শিক্ষার প্রবর্তন করা। এ বিষয়ের বরাদ্দ অপ্রচুর।

কৃষি বিভাগ সম্বন্ধে কয়েকটী কথা ব'লে আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করব। গো-জাতির অবনতির ফলে এবং উপযুক্ত বীজ ও সারের অভাবে চাষের অত্যন্ত অবনতি হয়েছে। যাতে বাংলার লুপ্তপ্রায় গো-সম্পদ বাড়িয়ে তুলতে পারা যায়, এজন্য ভাল ভাল ষাঁড় আমদানী করে গো-জাতির উন্নয়ন চেষ্টা করা উচিত। কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য প্রতি থানায় একটী ক'রে seed-store প্রতিষ্ঠা এবং রাসায়নিক সার বিতরণের জন্য কেন্দ্র খোলা আবশ্যক। কতকগুলি কৃষি সম্বন্ধে প্রকৃতপক্ষে অভিজ্ঞ কতকগুলি কর্মচারীকে গ্রামে গ্রামে ভ্রমণ ক'রে চাষীদিগকে সাক্ষাৎভাবে হাতে কলমে উন্নততর কৃষি-প্রণালী শিক্ষা দেবার ব্যবস্থা করা প্রয়োজন। প্রদেশ বিভাগের ফলে সম্প্রতি যে বহু সহস্র P. L. A. অনাথ বালকের মত বিনা কাজে গ্রামে গ্রামে ঘুরে বেড়ায়, তাদের অল্প দিনের মত কৃষি-বিভাগের প্রাথমিক কিছু শিক্ষা দিয়ে কৃষকদের সাহায্যের জন্য নিয়োজিত করা যেতে পারে। এ বিষয়ে আমি সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি।

আমি আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করার পূর্ব্বে একথাই বলতে চাই, দেশকে গড়ে তোলবার জন্য, দেশে সত্যকার স্বরাজ প্রতিষ্ঠার জন্য যে দরদী দৃষ্টি আবশ্যক, সেই দৃষ্টি ও মনোভাব নিয়ে বাজেট সংশোধিত হওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয়।

Sri KANAILAL DASS: মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় যে বাজেট পেশ করিয়াছেন তাহা সব্দিক দিয়া বিচার করিয়া দেখিলে ভালই হইয়াছে, এবং তজ্জন্য তাঁহাকে আমি অভিনন্দন জ্ঞাপন করিতেছি। আবার অভিনন্দন করিতেছি এইজন্যে যে এক কোটী টাকা ঘাট্তি হওয়া সত্বেও দেশবাসীদিগকে আবার করভারে পীড়িত করা হয় নাই। মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, এবারের বাজেটের expenditureএর বিরাট অংশ development programmeএর জন্য ধরা হইয়াছে।

মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, Nation-buildingএর জন্য যে সকল জিনিষের দরকার, যথা Education, Medical and Public Health, Agriculture ও Industry, সে সবই মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় তাঁহার যতদূর সম্ভব, বাজেট বুকেতে ব্যবস্থা করেছেন। বাংলাদেশের Educationএর দরুণ 1948-49এর জন্য ৮৪ লক্ষ টাকা এবং 31st March, 1948, পর্য্যন্ত ৬১,১৫ হাজার টাকা বরাদ্দ করেছেন। দেশ যাহাতে শিক্ষা বিষয়ে অন্য প্রদেশ অপেক্ষা পশ্চাতে না থাকে, এবং উহার উন্নতিকল্পে, অনেকগুলি নূতন নূতন স্কুল ও কলেজ স্থাপন করা হইয়াছে। Post-Graduate training, scientific study, higher research, library, laboratories ও technical schoolsএর ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। দেশে যাহাতে সকলে মাতৃভাষায় শিক্ষা পাইতে পারে এবং দেশ হইতে নিরক্ষরতা সম্পূর্ণরূপে দূর হয় তাহার জন্য basic, primary ও secondary educationএর ব্যাপক ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে।

মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, scheduled caste বা অস্পৃশ্য জাতিদের জন্য যে special fundএর ব্যবস্থা ছিল তাহা বন্ধ করিয়া দিয়া একটি সাধারণ non-lapsable fund ১০ ১/১ লক্ষ টাকায় start করা হইয়াছে। ঐ fundএর টাকা হইতে মুসলিম, কায়স্থ, বর্ণহিন্দু ছাড়া আর সকল educationally and economically backward জাতিগুলি, যেমন scheduled caste, hill tribes and Muslimsদের শিক্ষার জন্য সাহায্য দেওয়া হইবে। কিন্তু আমার মনে হয় এতগুলি জাতি বা ভিন্ন সম্প্রদায়ের সাহায্যার্থ জন্য ১০ ১/১ লক্ষ টাকা অতি সামান্য। হরিজনেরা হাজার হাজার বৎসর ধরিয়া হিন্দু সমাজের নিম্নস্তরে কুসংস্কারাচ্ছন্ন হইয়া, সর্ব্বপ্রকার সামাজিক, অর্থনৈতিক, রাজনৈতিক অধিকার হইতে বঞ্চিত হইয়া পড়িয়া আছে। তাহাদের উন্নতির জন্য, শিক্ষার জন্য, তাহাদিগকে সর্ব্বপ্রকার সামাজিক অধিকার দিবার জন্য, তাহারা যাহাতে শিক্ষিত হইতে চেষ্টা করে সেই বিষয়ে উৎসাহ দিবার জন্যই এই Scheduled Caste Special Fundএর ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছিল। তাহা না হইলে যে ঐ টাকাতে লক্ষ লক্ষ অস্পৃশ্য জাতির বা হরিজনদের উন্নতি হইতে পারে ইহা কেহ বিশ্বাস করে না। Scheduled casteদের মধ্যে শিক্ষার হার অতি অল্প এবং খুব কম লোকই শিক্ষিত। পূর্ব্বে যে Scheduled Caste Special Fund ছিল তাহাতে জনকয়েক ভাগ্যবান ব্যক্তি বা সম্প্রদায়েরই কেবলমাত্র সুবিধা হয়েছিল। পশ্চিম বঙ্গের অনুন্নত হরিজনদের কোনও বিশেষ সুবিধা হয় নাই। মাননীয় অর্থসচিব

মহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করি যে Constituent Assemblyতে যখন দশ বৎসরের জন্য বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে তখন ঐ ব্যবস্থা এই কয়েক বৎসরের জন্য বাংলাদেশেও বলবৎ রাখা হউক ; এবং আমি আশা করি যে উহাতে বাংলার বাজেটে বিশেষ অসুবিধা হইবে না।

এই সেদিন খবরের কাগজে এবং radio হইতে জানিতে পারিলাম যে এই পরিষদের বর্ত্তমান অধিবেশনেই বাংলাদেশ হইতে অস্পৃশ্যতা নিবারণের জন্য একটি বিল অতি শীঘ্র এই হাউসে আনা হবে। Central Assembly ও এই West Bengal Assembly উভয়েরই মত এই অস্পৃশ্যতার বিরুদ্ধে, তখন অস্পৃশ্যতা নিবারণ বিল আগে pass না করিয়ে scheduled casteদের বিশেষ অধিকার বন্ধ করা যুক্তিযুক্ত হইবে না। উহাতে scheduled casteদের মনে নানা প্রকার সন্দেহ জন্মাইতে পারে। অস্পৃশ্যতা আগে বাংলাদেশ হইতে দূর হইয়া যাউক এবং উহা সম্পূর্ণরূপে দূর হইয়া যাইলে পর scheduled casteদের বিশেষ অধিকার সম্বন্ধে আর কোন কথা আসিতে পারিবে না। আমি আবার মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করি তিনি যেন এই Scheduled Caste Fundএর কথা দ্বিতীয়বার চিন্তা করিয়া দেখেন।

মি: স্পীকার, স্যার, এবারের বাজেটে দেখা যায় যে Agricultureএর জন্য মোট দুই কোটী ৩১ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। অখণ্ড বাংলার Agriculture budget অপেক্ষা খণ্ডিত বাংলার budget বেশী করা হইয়াছে। কৃষি বিভাগের খুব বেশী উন্নতির জন্য এই ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে। পূর্ব্বেকার গভর্ণমেণ্টের সময় দেখেছি যে, বৎসরের শেষে যখন টাকার টানাটানি পড়ে, তখন Agriculture ও Irrigationএর দরুণ যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করা ছিল, সেই টাকা শুধু সেই কার্য্যের জন্য ব্যয় না করিয়া অন্য কার্য্যের জন্য ব্যয় করিয়া থাকেন।

Muslim League মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর আমলে পশ্চিম বাংলার কৃষির অবস্থা ভাল ছিল না। মি: স্পীকার, স্যার, গত বৎসরের তিক্ত অভিজ্ঞতার ফলে, এবং কৃষকদের দুরবস্থা দেখিয়া মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে যে প্রতি বৎসর কৃষকগণ যাহাতে ঠিক সময় ধানের বীজ, আলুর বীজ, ভাল সার পাইতে পারে সে বিষয়ে যেন বিশেষ লক্ষ্য রাখা হয়। মি: স্পীকার, স্যার, মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় Damodar Valley Projects Schemeএর কথা বলেছেন এবং ইহার জন্য Central Government হইতে ৫৫ কোটী টাকা ব্যয় হইবে বলা হইয়াছে।

(Here Red Light was lit.)

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up

Sri KANAILAL DASS : আর একটু সময়, স্যার। পরিকল্পনা অনুসারে ঐ scheme সম্পূর্ণ কার্য্যে পরিণত করিয়া শেষ করিতে বোধ হয় ১০-১৫ বৎসর সময় লাগিবে। ঐ ১০-১৫ বৎসরের জন্য বর্দ্ধমান জেলার কৃষিকার্য্যের কোনও ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। বর্দ্ধমান জেলার উত্তর-পশ্চিমে ও দক্ষিণে কয়েকটি থানা এলাকায় জলের অভাবে ভালরূপ চাষ করা যায় না। আমি মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে অনুরোধ করি যে Agriculture development schemeএ re-excavation of Irrigation tank এর জন্য যে ২০ লক্ষ টাকা মঞ্জুর করিয়াছেন তাহা যেন ঐ কার্য্যের জন্য বর্দ্ধমান জেলায় ব্যয় করা হয়। সেটা যদি করেন তাহা হইলে বর্দ্ধমান জেলার অধিবাসিগণের অতীব উপকার হয়।

Civil Supply Departmentএর মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বোধ হয় জানেন যে গত food crisisএর সময় ধান, চাউলের এক বিরাট অংশ এই বর্দ্ধমান জেলা হইতে procure করা হইয়াছে।

মি: স্পীকার, স্যার, এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি আর একটি কথা বলতে চাই। Development programmeএ মৎস্য চাষের জন্য বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে। Development of tank fisheries জন্য ৬৯ হাজার টাকা মঞ্জুর করিয়াছেন--তাহা আমি ঐ স্থানে মৎস্য চাষ করিতে অনুরোধ করি। কারণ তাহাতে স্বল্প খরচায় দুইটি development scheme সম্পূর্ণ করিতে পারা যাইবে। দীঘী ও পুষ্করিণীর সংস্কার করা হইলে তাহাতে ধান চাষের সুবিধা হইবে এবং সাথে সাথে মৎস্য চাষেরও সুবিধা হইবে। আমি মাননীয় অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয়কে এ বিষয়ের প্রতি বিশেষ মনোযোগ দিতে অনুরোধ করি। Development programmeএ প্রতি union ও থানাতে Health Centre করা এবং তাহাতে indoor hospital, outdoor despensary, Maternity clinic, Antimalarial squad, Auxiliary Hospital, Rural Nursing Service ইত্যাদি ব্যবস্থার জন্য ১ কোটি ৩ লক্ষ, ৭২ লক্ষ, এবং ৬ লক্ষ টাকা মঞ্জুর করা হইয়াছে।

বাস্তবিক পল্লীগ্রামে বহু লোক অনেক সময় অতি সামান্য Medical aidএর অভাবে প্রতি বৎসর মারা যায় ইউনিয়ন ও থানা Health Centre খোলা হইলে পল্লীবাসীদের দীর্ঘ দিনের এক বিরাট অভাব মোচন হইবে। মি: স্পীকার, স্যার, Public Health সম্বন্ধে আমি ২-১টি কথা বলতে চাই। rural water-supplyএর জন্য ৩০ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে। ঐ টাকা প্রতি districtএ ভাগ করিয়া দেওয়া হয়; এবং district board বা একটি sub-committeeর হাতে ঐ জেলার প্রয়োজনমত স্থানে স্থানে tube-well নির্মাণের ভার দেওয়া হয়। তাঁহারা জেলার যে স্থানে tube-well দরকার সেই স্থানে tube-well তৈয়ারী করিয়া দেন। পল্লীগ্রামের হরিজনেরা শিক্ষা এবং সাহসের অভাবে, তাহারা district board memberদের নিকট তাহাদের অভাব-অভিযোগ নিবেদন করিতে পারে না এবং সেই জন্য তাহাদের filtered-waterএর অভাবে কষ্ট পাইতে হয়। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে অতি শীঘ্র ইহার প্রতিকার করিতে অনুরোধ করি এবং যাহাতে জাতিবর্ণ নির্বিশেষে সকলে tube-wellএর জল ব্যবহার করিতে পারে তদ্বিষয়ে দৃষ্টি দেন।

মি: স্পীকার, স্যার, Anti-malarial schemeএর জন্য ২০ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে। কেবল quinine, paludrine বিতরণ করিয়া malaria দূর করা যাইবে না, ইহার সহিত অন্য উপায়গুলিও গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে। দেশের জনগণকে স্বাস্থ্য সম্বন্ধে জ্ঞান দিতে হইবে, এবং তজ্জন্য public health literatures বিতরণের ব্যবস্থা করিতে হইবে।

পরিশেষে political sufferersএর reliefএর জন্য এবং জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদকল্পে যে চেষ্টা বা ব্যাপক পরিকল্পনা বর্তমান সরকার করছেন তার জন্য আমি তাকে আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন জ্ঞাপন করিতেছি।

Janab HUSAN ARA BEGUM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been following the debate of the honourable members of the House who have spoken on nearly all the items in the estimated budget of the current year and of 1948-49. I will therefore touch on a few important points and draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister for more adequate provisions to be made for meeting the requirements of the people, especially women and children.

Education.—This is the most burning question for the advancement of a country. The world has realised that without education of the masses no improvement could be achieved for the status of a civilised nation. It is the Government's duty to provide facilities in this direction for all its people without distinction of community, caste or creed.

The Muslims who are in the minority have not been allotted their due share according to their needs. Contributions of 6 lakhs 38 thousand has been made in the current year and a non-lapsable fund called the "fund for the promotion of education amongst the backward classes" of 10 lakhs 36 thousand has been created for 1948-49 for the Scheduled Castes as well as the other educationally backward classes including Muslims.

From the point of view of an educationalist this amount will only be a drop in the ocean. I would request the Government to make a special provision for "Muslim Education" such as exists for the "Anglo-Indians and Europeans" in the budget.

Girls' education.—The grant allotted for girls' education is very meagre, as the demand for girls' education in all stages is going up by leaps and bounds. Therefore there should be an increase in the allotment.

Medical.—I find that no provision has been made for the following hospitals.—(1) Lady Dufferin Hospital, the only hospital exclusive for women, which is passing through the most critical period in its history of existence, and is carrying on its work amidst great odds; (2) Islamia Hospital, which has been doing yeoman service, irrespective of caste or creed, has not found a place in the budget. Moreover, the recurring and non-recurring grants for 1947-48 has not been received by the said hospital up to now. I sincerely hope that the Hon'ble Finance Minister will look into this matter and thereby ease suffering of the people who will benefit through these institutions.

More facilities should be provided for free medical relief and free dispensaries and clinics should be established in the city, especially in the *bustee* areas where great congestion prevails, and which are the seats of origin of diseases. The population of Calcutta has enormously increased within the past few months; therefore it is most essential that the Government should keenly consider the medical assistance for its people. This would not be difficult as fortunately the one at the helm of affairs (our Chief Minister) is a medical man, one who has vast experience and under whose guidance many medical institutions have sprung up and risen to fame.

I congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for the provision of 3 lakhs for Maternity and Child Welfare but this amount will not be sufficient to meet the requirements of the expanding population which is growing larger day by day.

I also congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the provision of 8 lakhs for anti-Leprosy schemes. In my opinion this sum is too low in comparison with urgent necessity of bringing this peril under control.

It is a matter of great regret that Calcutta, which was termed the second largest city in the British Empire, has the largest number of human beings stricken with this dread disease moving freely about the streets of the metropolis. The Government should make a special allotment for establishing leper colonies on scientific lines as soon as possible to check further infection and thereby provide a "haven of rest" for the sufferers.

Scientific Department.—It is interesting to note that in the grant to the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal a provision has been made for Oriental works and for publication of Arabic and Persian works of historical interest.

It is also gratifying to find that Government proposes to set up community kitchens, and I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister on this idea which will be a novel one and through which many people will benefit.

In conclusion I hope that there will be no discriminations to institutions bearing Islamic names, and no hindrance will be placed in its working, and the Government will have a broad outlook of policy following in the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi of revered memory, and respecting their feelings thereby extend a hand of assistance to the Muslims who are in the minority and a care of the Government.

Sri RADHANATH DAS : মাননীয় স্পীকার মহাশয়! আমি প্রথমে আমাদের মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে আমার আন্তরিক সদিচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন জ্ঞাপন করছি। ভারতবর্ষ স্বাধীনতা পাবার পর বাংলাদেশের প্রথম বাজেট যেটা তিনি আমাদের কাছে এনেছেন তাতে জাতিগঠনমূলক কাজের জন্য যে সব খরচের বরাদ্দ তিনি ক'রেছেন সেগুলি নানা রকম অবস্থা-বিপাকের মধ্যে পড়ে এবং বিপদের মধ্যে থেকেও তিনি যতখানি করতে প্রয়াস পেয়েছেন সেটায় সত্যই আমরা আনন্দ বোধ করছি। বর্তমান সময়ে বাংলাদেশ পৃথক হওয়ার জন্য আমাদের অর্থনৈতিক দুরবস্থা খানিকটা হওয়া সত্ত্বেও আমরা আগে যে রেভিনিউ পেতাম এবং বর্ত্তমানে আমরা যে রেভিনিউ পেয়েছি বা পাব আশা করছি সেটা দেখলে বিশেষ হতাশ হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা আছে বোলে বোধ হয় না। তা সত্ত্বেও আমাদের যে আয় কিছু কমে গেছে সে বিষয়ে নিঃসন্দেহ। কিন্তু আয় কমলেও তিনি জাতিগঠনমূলক কাজে যে সব খরচের বরাদ্দ কোরেছেন সেগুলি সত্যই আনন্দদায়ক। এজন্য আমি অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ দিচ্ছি। তবু ২।১টা কথার উল্লেখ আমি করতে চাই এবং সেই সব ব্যাপারে অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চাই। একটা জিনিষ বাজেটে বিশেষ দেখতে পাচ্ছি না। সেটা হচ্ছে ভারতবর্ষ স্বাধীন হওয়ার পর বাংলাদেশ সীমান্ত প্রদেশ হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে। এই সীমান্ত প্রদেশে আত্মরক্ষা করবার জন্য সমস্ত যুবকেরা যাতে অস্ত্রবিদ্যায় পারদর্শী হয়ে উঠে এই উদ্দেশ্যে যে বিশেষ কোন চেষ্টা হয়েছে তা দেখতে পাচ্ছি না। অবশ্য এ বিষয়েও আমি অর্থসচিব ও প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের সঙ্গে আলোচনা কোরেছি। আমি জানি তাঁরা এবিষয়ে নিশ্চিন্ত নন, কিন্তু বাজেটে সে বিষয়ে বিশেষ কিছু না জানতে পারার দরুণ আমি অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের মারফৎ প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি। এ বিষয়টা কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের jurisdictionএর মধ্যে পড়ে বটে,

কিন্তু দেশকে military-minded করার জন্য যাতে সামরিক বিদ্যায় দেশের লোক পারদর্শী হয় সেজন্য অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এ রকম ব্যবস্থা করুন যে যেন একটা National Guard বা National Militias সৃষ্টি হয় এবং প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে কেন্দ্র খুলে দেশের লোককে অস্ত্রবিদ্যায় পারদর্শী কোরে তুলবার চেষ্টা হ'লে ভাল হয়। অবশ্য ইউনিয়নে ইউনিয়নে এই রকম ক'রতে হ'লে অনেক খরচ হ'তে পারে যেটা বর্ত্তমান বাজেট থেকে ব্যবস্থা করা সম্ভব নাও হ'তে পারে, কিন্তু যদি একটু চেষ্টা করা হয় তাহ'লেও অনেক ভলান্টিয়ার পাওয়া যেতে পারে এবং যারা শিখ্‌তে আস্‌বে তাদেরও বিশেষ কোন খরচ হবে না; উপরন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্টের তত্বাবধানে যদি এই সব কাজ হয় তাহলে শিক্ষানবীশীদের শিক্ষার জন্য লোকের অভাবও হবে বোলে বোধ হয় না। কারণ, ex-service menদের একটা Ex-service Association আছে এবং তাঁদের কাছে trainer পাওয়ার জন্য অনুসন্ধান ক'র্‌লে হয়ত trainer বিনা পয়সায়ই পাওয়া যাবে। যাই হউক আমি এবিষয়ে অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করছি। আর একটা জিনিষ-- Lake areaয় বা দুই একটা জায়গায় Rifle Club করা হয়েছে যাতে দেশের লোকেরা অস্ত্রবিদ্যা কিছু কিছু শিখতে পারে। একথা বল্‌ছি কেবল দেশের লোক যাতে military-minded হয় তাই করবার জন্য।

আরও ২।১টা বিষয়ের প্রতি মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চাইছি। গ্রামে বা সহরে কোথাও কোথাও পানীয় জলের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে বটে, কিন্তু সত্যিকারের যাদের মধ্যে পানীয় জলের অভাব খুব বেশী সেখানে পানীয় জলের ব্যবস্থা হয় না। যাঁরা অবস্থাপন্ন বা influential, যাঁরা district board বা union boardএর Chairman বা সভ্য, তাঁদেরই বাড়ীর আশপাশে সেগুলি হয়। কিন্তু যাদের মধ্যে সত্যই জলের অভাব, অর্থাৎ নিম্নস্তরের লোক যারা সত্যই জলের অভাবে কষ্ট পায়, তাদের মধ্যেই সেই ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত।

আর একটা জিনিষ হচ্ছে এই যে আজকাল প্রায় প্রত্যেক জায়গায়--গভর্ণমেণ্ট ডিপার্টমেণ্টে বলুন বা অন্য সাধারণ জায়গায় বলুন--corruption জিনিষটা বড় বেশী রকম আমাদের চোখে পড়ে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট অফিসিয়ালদের মধ্যে যাতে corruption বন্ধ হয় তার ব্যবস্থা থাকা উচিত। অন্যান্য provincial Governmentএর মধ্যে দেখা গিয়াছে যে তাঁরা একটা anti-corruption department নিজেদের মধ্যে খুলেছেন যাতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট অফিসিয়ালদের শিথিলতা ধরা পড়ে। আমাদেরও এখানে এই রকম একটা ডিপার্টমেণ্ট থাকা উচিত। সেজন্য আমি অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি সেদিকে আকর্ষণ করছি।

আর একটা জিনিষ হ'ল এই যে বাংলাদেশ ভাগ হয়ে যাওয়ার জন্য আমরা দেখ্‌তে পাচ্ছি পূর্ব্ববঙ্গ থেকে অনেক লোক পশ্চিমবঙ্গে আসছে, এবং জায়গা না পাওয়ায় বিশেষ দুর্বিপাকে পড়ে রয়েছে। প্রথমে তাঁরা নিজেদের দেশ থেকে চলে আস্‌ছেন তাঁদের জিনিষপত্র, বাড়ীঘর অত্যন্ত কম দরে বেচে। তাঁরা সেখানে নানা রকম অত্যাচার সহ্য কোরে এখানে পালিয়ে আস্‌তে বাধ্য হয়েছেন, কিন্তু এখানে এসেও তাঁরা ভাল অবস্থায় যে পড়েছেন তা নয়। এই সব কারণে আমার একান্ত ইচ্ছা যে আমাদের অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এবং প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এমন ব্যবস্থা করুন যাতে এর একটা বিহিত হয়। এদিক দিয়ে তাঁকে কিছু করতে বল্‌ছি। আমার মনে হয় পূর্ব্ব-পাকিস্থান গভর্ণমেণ্টের সঙ্গে পশ্চিমবাংলার গভর্ণমেণ্ট একসঙ্গে বসে বন্ধুভাবে আলোচনা কোরে একটা নিষ্পত্তি ক'র্‌লে খুব ভাল হয়।

আমি আপনাদের আর বেশী সময় নিতে চাই না। শেষ কালে অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে আমার আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কোরে আসন গ্রহণ করছি।

Janab MUHAMMAD IDRIS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the dawn of freedom millions of people of our country began to look forward for a bright and prosperous India. They thought that there would be complete change of the outlook of the Government immediately after the achievement of freedom. They hoped that the untold sufferings and hardships they have undergone so long would come to an end. They hoped that the maladministration that has been the root cause of their sufferings would stop since the Government is now their own Government, entirely administered by their people and their representatives. But, Sir, the budget that has been presented in this House has completely disheartened them. Sir, it is regrettable that the West Bengal Government in spite of its being a people's Government has not been able to do away with its bureaucratic mentality. A careful study of the budget will definitely show that far

from its being a common man's budget it is a bureaucrat's budget in it entirety. Our West Bengal province in its size is practically one-thir of the undivided Bengal but this huge reduction in size has not brough proportionate reduction in its expenditure, for we find for one-third c Bengal we are going to spend more than half of the expenditure of th undivided Bengal. And yet it is a deficit budget.

It is indeed very regrettable when we find that this large expenditur is not meant for ameliorating the deplorable conditions of the ordinar masses nor it is meant for the ill-paid Government servants who receiv Rs. 20, Rs. 25, Rs. 30 as their monthly salaries, and what can be mor regrettable than this that this deficit is not due to any notable developmen programme.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has himself admitted that this larg expenditure is chiefly due to maintaining proportionately larger numbe of Government officers. The Hon'ble Finance Minister says that there i a large body of surplus personnel opting from East Bengal for whon provision has had to be made. Sir, nobody denies that provision has ha to be made for them. But why a small province like West Bengal i to make provision for them, particularly when West Bengal i confronted with so many problems of her own? I think it is entirel Central Government's lookout, rather it is their duty, to make provisio for this heavy surplus of officers who have opted for service from Eas Bengal.

Then again, the Hon'ble Finance Minister says that Government is t make heavy expenditure for the administration of Calcutta and that thi is also a cause of large expenditure of West Bengal Government. Sir though virtually Calcutta happens to be the capital of West Bengal bu yet who is benefited by Calcutta? Are the ordinary masses of Wes Bengal? Certainly not. Who are exploiting Calcutta to the best of the interests? Are they not non-Bengali capitalists coming from all parts o India and abroad? And yet this heavy burden of administrative expenditur of Calcutta is placed on the weak shoulders of ordinary masses of Wes Bengal. Why not West Bengal Government is bold enough to raise the voice and demand reasonable grants from the Centre for making provisio for this surplus personnel opting from East Bengal and demand to allo sufficient grant for Calcutta to meet its administrative expenditure and t continue its rationing organisation, if at all it is needed?

Sir, we know that during last great war the expenditure for runnin rationing organisation at Calcutta was borne by the Centre and not by th Provincial Government. I do not understand how the Central Governmen can shirk their responsibility to bear the expenses for rationing organisatio at Calcutta where the food situation has become much more acute owing t large number of influx in this city.

Now coming to Civil Supplies Department under Grant No. 34 we fin a large amount of more than 3 crores has been estimated. Sir, the whol country does not want that this notorious department continue any further I do not understand why this large amount of money has been estimate for Civil Supplies Department, particularly when control over man commodities like sugar and cloth, etc., has already been withdrawn Generally speaking I do not think that there is any necessity to continu this department any further. If at all urgent necessity is felt to maintai this department to tackle the acute food situation in this province, it ma be allowed to continue in a small skeleton scale. Sir, I do not understan how this Government can squander away public money by indulging i lavish expenses by maintaining many unnecessary highly-paid officials i this department. A Government servant of Bengal Junior Civil Service cadr begins with Rs. 125 as monthly pay, whereas a Subdivisional Controller o District Controller of Civil Supplies Department enjoys princely pay of more

than Rs. 500 and Rs. 600 respectively. These District Controllers and Subdivisional Controllers and their like are in no way better qualified or more competent than the officers of Bengal Civil Service cadre who are to come out successful in a competitive examination before they are appointed. And yet mark the difference of pay.

Sir, I have already said that a Civil Supplies Department in its small skeleton scale may be allowed to continue only to tackle the acute food situation of West Bengal, if it is so urgent. If the Government wants to control the food situation in the province, they should control it satisfactorily. It is no good to control a commodity if it is not available as soon as it is controlled. If Government fixes the controlled price of paddy at Rs. 7 a maund and if it is not available even at Rs. 12 a maund, then for God's sake give up this sort of control and leave the people to their own fate.

Sir, on account of the acute food situation in our province I would suggest that Government should immediately launch a food drive and procure sufficient amount of paddy and rice from the surplus districts to meet the demand of deficit districts.

Sir, coming to Grant No 29 I find that my district, Howrah, has been deprived of its reasonable share from this head of account. Sir, it is curious enough that Howrah, so near to Calcutta and so important a district from industrial and commercial points of view, can be so hopelessly neglected about its roads and communications. There is no allotment for Howrah except for Maurigram-Uluberia Provincial Highway. Sir, there has been a constant demand from the people of Howrah district for immediate improvement of the Howrah-Jagatvallavpur-Amta Road for the last many years Last year a strong representation was made to the Government by about 5,000 signatories of representative character for immediate improvement of this road, but unfortunately nothing has been done as yet.

Lastly, Sir, we are very much disappointed as we do not find any allotment to *madrassa* education while similar other institutions such as *tols*, etc., have been allotted adequate grants. Muslim education has only been referred to non-lapsable fund meant for the promotion of education to the economically and educationally backward classes. But no indication as to how much will be allotted for the Muslim education has been made—perhaps that depends on the sweet will of the authority who will administer the fund. Sir, *madrassas* were not only meant for the Muslims as an educationally and economically backward community but, Sir, *madrassas* are a particular type of educational institutions where Islamic religious teachings are given—religious teachings which are not available in any other class of educational institutions.

Now, Sir, as the *tols* as religious institutions have been allotted grants there is no reason as to why similar grants will not be made for *madrassas*. Sir, this has created a sense of disappointment among the Muslims regarding the future of *madrassas* and their religious teachings. The Mussalmans of West Bengal demand a just, fair and impartial treatment, if not a generous gesture towards them.

Sri SUSIL KUMAR BANERJEE: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, স্বাধীনতা লাভের পর পশ্চিম বাংলার এই প্রথম বাজেট। এ বৎসরের বাজেটে বহু লোকহিতকর কার্যের জন্য টাকা বণ্টিত হইয়াছে ইহা শুভ সূচনা বলিয়া ধরিয়া লওয়া যায়। এর জন্য মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে আমি অভিনন্দন জানাই।

স্বাধীন দেশের জনসাধারণের জীবন-সমস্যার সমস্তগুলিই আমাদের সত্বর সমাধান করিতে হইবে। কংগ্রেস পার্টি ও কংগ্রেসগঠিত মন্ত্রী-সভা এই দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করিয়াছে, এবং যতদিন না আমরা সে দায়িত্ব পূর্ণভাবে পালন করিতে সক্ষম হইতেছি, ততদিন আমরা দেশবাসীদের নিকট হইতে প্রশংসা পাইতে পারি না। নির্বাচনী ইস্তাহারে দেশবাসীদের আমরা যে সব প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াছি, তাহা আমাদের সর্বতোভাবে পালন করিতেই হইবে।

বর্ত্তমান বৎসরের বাজেটে বাংলার রাজনৈতিক নির্য্যাতিতদের সাহায্য করা হইবে বলিয়া আশ্বাস দেওয়া হইয়াছে এবং সে বিষয়ে এক পরিকল্পনাও সরকারের বিবেচনাধীন রহিয়াছে। স্বাধীনতা-সংগ্রামে যাঁরা নিজেদের নিঃস্ব করিয়া দিয়াছেন তাঁহাদের বা তাঁহাদের পরিবারবর্গের প্রতি সাহায্য ও শ্রদ্ধা প্রদর্শন করা স্বাধীন সরকারের কর্ত্তব্য হওয়া উচিত। আশা করি উহা শুধু পরিকল্পনাতেই পর্য্যবসিত হইবে না, অর্থসচিব মহাশয় উহাকে কার্য্যকরী করিয়া তুলিয়া দেশবাসীর কৃতজ্ঞতা অর্জ্জন করিবেন।

১৯৪৮-৪৯ সনের বাজেটে যে সমস্ত জনকল্যাণকর কাজের জন্য টাকার বরাদ্দ রহিয়াছে তন্মধ্যে নিম্নলিখিত বিষয়গুলি বিশেষ উল্লেখযোগ্য, যথা শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, সেচ, শিল্প ও কৃষি। যানবাহনের প্রসার বাবদও কিছু টাকা ধরা হইয়াছে। মধ্যবিত্ত জনসাধারণের বসবাসের ব্যবস্থা করার ও বস্তী-উন্নয়নের দিক হইতেও দৃষ্টি এড়াইয়া যায় নাই। স্বল্প বেতনভোগী সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের দাবী পূরণের ব্যবস্থাও এ বাজেটে রহিয়াছে।

জমিদারী প্রথা উচ্ছেদের ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য কিছু টাকা ধরা হইয়াছে। ইংরাজ সাম্রাজ্যবাদের অতীত কলঙ্ক এই জমিদারী প্রথা। শতকরা ৯৫ জনেরও উপর দেশবাসীর জীবনযাত্রা এই প্রথার দরুণ দূষিত ও দুর্বিসহ হইয়া উঠিয়াছে। অচিরেই এই প্রথাটার বিলোপসাধন করিতে না পারিলে জমিহীন কৃষক ও মজুরের অবস্থাকে আরো ভীষণ হইতে ভীষণতরভাবে বিপন্ন করা হইবে। বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর এদিকে যথেষ্ট কর্ত্তব্য রহিয়াছে; ভরসা আছে, অর্থসচিব তাহা সম্পন্ন করিবেন।

শিক্ষা খাতে অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যাপারে টাকা ধরা হইলেও প্রাথমিক শিক্ষাকে অবৈতনিক ও বাধ্যতামূলক করা এবং উহার প্রসারের ব্যবস্থা করা এবং প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষকদের বেতনবৃদ্ধি ইত্যাদি কার্য্যের জন্য কোন টাকার বরাদ্দ নাই। ইহা ছাড়া এই সকল শিক্ষকদের শিক্ষাকেন্দ্রকে নূতন পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী গঠনমূলক করার জন্যও কোন টাকার ব্যবস্থা নাই। জাতির জীবন-সংগ্রামের প্রথম সমস্যা শিক্ষা। জনসাধারণের জীবনযাত্রার প্রথম পাথেয় শিক্ষা। অবৈতনিক বাধ্যতামূলক প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা ব্যতিরেকে জাতিগঠন অসম্ভব। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় স্বাধীনতার পর প্রথম বাজেটে সেদিকে আমরা বিশেষ মনোযোগ দিতে পারি নাই। অবশ্য বনিয়াদি শিক্ষার জন্য ১১ লক্ষ টাকা ধরা হইয়াছে সত্য।

Sri JYOTI BASU: On a point of order, Sir. I do not find the Finance Minister here while the speeches are going on

The Hon'ble Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: He has gone to take his tea.

Sri JYOTI BASU: It is amazing that the Finance Minister should go for tea at this moment when speeches are going on.

The Hon'ble Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I am here to take notes for him.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. That is not a point of order.

Sri SUSIL KUMAR BANERJEE: জাতির পক্ষে কল্যাণকর কোন কোন বিভাগের বরাদ্দ প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় অতি অল্পই হইয়াছে--এমন কি গত বৎসরের (১৯৪৬-৪৭ ও ১৯৪৭-৪৮) বাজেট হইতেও। কিন্তু তাহা বর্ত্তমান ক্ষেত্রে বাস্তব সম্ভাব্যতার প্রতি দৃষ্টি রাখিয়াই বোধ হয় প্রথম বৎসরের পরিমাণ নির্দ্ধারিত হইয়াছে বলিয়া মনে হয়। সেই কারণে, এই সকল বিষয়ে প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় বরাদ্দ যথেষ্ট অপ্রতুল হইলেও আমাদের অনুযোগের কারণ দেখিতেছি না।

বঙ্গদেশ দ্বিধা বিভক্ত হইয়াছে। কিন্তু জাতীয় জীবনের বিভিন্ন স্তরের কর্ম্মপ্রচেষ্টা ও প্রভাবের বিষয় জনসাধারণের আলোচনার জন্য প্রচারকার্য্যের বিবিধ ব্যবস্থা করা আশু প্রয়োজন। এই কার্য্যের জন্য প্রয়োজন সতর্ক প্রচার বিভাগ গঠন ও প্রচারক সৃষ্টি করা। আশা করি, বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী এদিকে নিশ্চয়ই দৃষ্টি দিবেন। এতদ্‌সম্পর্কে যথোপযুক্ত আয়োজন সম্পূর্ণ করার জন্য অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে আমি অনুরোধ জানাই।

বেসামরিক সরবরাহ বিভাগের খাদ্যশস্য সরবরাহ অত্যধিক হ্রাস করার ফলে পশ্চিম বঙ্গে, বিশেষতঃ বর্দ্ধমান বিভাগের কতিপয় জেলায় খাদ্যসঙ্কট বৃদ্ধি পাইয়াছে। উহার সম্ভাবিত পরিণতি হইতে দরিদ্র, নিম্ন মধ্যবিত্ত জনসাধারণের আংশিক অব্যাহতির জন্য ব্যবস্থা করা দরকার। সেই কারণে সরকারী সাহায্য রাখার ব্যবস্থা করা বর্ত্তমান বাজেটেই প্রয়োজন। আশা করি, মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এ বিষয়েও অবহিত হইবেন।

বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে স্বায়ত্তশাসন প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলির সাহায্য হিসাবে কিছুই বরাদ্দ রাখা হয় নাই। কলিকাতা কর্পোরেশন, হাওড়া মিউনিসিপালিটি, ডিষ্ট্রিক্ট বোর্ড প্রভৃতি পৌর প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলি অর্থাভাবে কি নিদারুণ অবস্থায় পতিত হইয়াছে তাহার সঠিক সংবাদ আশা করি মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী রাখেন। গত মহাযুদ্ধের দরুণ প্রয়োজনীয়তা হিসাবে তাহাদের উপর দিয়া কার্য্য চালাইয়া তাহাদের যে শোচনীয় অবস্থা করা হইয়াছিল বর্ত্তমান অর্থসচিব নিশ্চয়ই সেকথা জানেন। ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডগুলির আর্থিক অবস্থা আরো শোচনীয়। বাংলার জনসাধারণের সুবিধা, সুযোগ ও সুব্যবস্থার জন্য এই সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান গঠিত হইয়াছে। বাংলার পল্লী-গঠন ও গ্রামোন্নয়ন সম্পর্কে ইহাদের সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন আছে। বলা বাহুল্য, এতদিন সরকার যে উদ্দেশ্য ও কর্ম্মনীতি অনুসরণ করিয়া চলিতেছেন বৃটিশ শাসনের অবসানের পর সেই উদ্দেশ্য ও কর্ম্মধারার পরিবর্ত্তন অপরিহার্য্য হইয়া উঠিয়াছে। কারণ এই সমস্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানই গণতন্ত্রের প্রথম ও প্রধান ভিত্তি।

বাংলা সরকারের মাথাভারী (top heavy) শাসনভার কমাইবার কোন সূচনা বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে দেখিতে পাওয়া যায় নাই। প্রদেশের এই সংকীর্ণ আয়, বিশেষ করিয়া যখন বর্ত্তমান বৎসরে এক কোটী টাকা ঘাটতি হইয়াছে, তখন মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর এদিকে দৃষ্টি দেওয়া বিশেষ প্রয়োজন বলিয়া মনে করি। ভরসা আছে বর্ত্তমান অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এবিষয়ের গুরুত্ব সম্যক উপলব্ধি করিবেন।

পরিশেষে আমার বক্তব্য এই যে বর্ত্তমান বাজেটের ধার্য্য বরাদ্দগুলি স্বল্প হইলেও কার্য্যকরী করিয়া তুলিবার ভার স্থায়ী কর্ম্মচারীদের উপর। অতীতে তাঁহাদের ত্রুটি-বিচ্যুতি ও কর্ত্তব্যবিমুখতার যথেষ্ট পরিচয় পাওয়া গিয়াছে। পশ্চিম বঙ্গ প্রদেশের শোচনীয় দুরবস্থার কথা সম্যক অবগত হইয়াও প্রতিকারের উপায় সম্পর্কে সকল সময়েই তাঁহারা নিশ্চেষ্ট ছিলেন। আজ স্বাধীন রাষ্ট্রতন্ত্রের বাহক হিসাবে আমরা যেন তাঁহাদের নিকট হইতে আশা করিতে পারি অন্য পরিচয়; আজিকার এই সব বরাদ্দের অন্তর্নিহিত প্রতিটী প্রস্তাব কার্য্যে রূপায়িত করিবার ও তাহার উপর ভিত্তি করিয়া পরিকল্পনা রচনা করা ও তাহা সম্পূর্ণ করার ভার তাঁহারা গ্রহণ করিবেন।

Sri PRAMATHANATH BANDYOPADHYAY: মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয়, আমি এই বাজেট সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলবার পূর্ব্বে অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে, আমাদিগকে মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যে নূতন বাজেট শুনিয়েছেন সেজন্য, তাঁকে অভিবাদন জানাই। সৌভাগ্যই হোউক বা দুর্ভাগ্যই হোউক্ গত ১৯২৪ খৃষ্টাব্দ হতে মধ্যে মধ্যে এই বাজেট সভায় উপস্থিত থাকবার সুযোগ আমার হয়েছে। বাজেট অধিবেশনের সময়, অর্থসচিব মহাশয় বাজেট উপস্থিত করতেন। আমরা সেই সময় অর্থসচিব যাঁরা থাকতেন তাঁদের বুদ্ধিমত্তার জন্য এবং তাঁরা এত ভাল বাজেট উপস্থিত করেছেন বলে তাঁদের অভিনন্দন বরাবর করেছি। কিন্তু বৎসর শেষ হবার সময় দেখি যে যেসমস্ত আশা এবং ভরসার কথা বাজেটে রাখা হয়েছিল তার অধিকাংশ কাজে পরিণত হয়নি। অধিকাংশ বললে কম বলা হবে, প্রায় সমস্তই কাজে পরিণত হয়নি। সেই কৃষি বিভাগ ছিল, Veterinary Departmentও ছিল, Medical বিভাগও ছিল; সবই আছে, কিন্তু বৎসরের শেষে দেখতে পাবেন যে কোন বিভাগ থেকেই চাষীদের কিছু উন্নতি হয়েছে বলে কখনও দেখা যায়নি। এক মুঠো ধানও বেশী উৎপন্ন হয়েছে এ সংবাদ আমরা পাইনি। আমাদের দেশে শিল্প বিভাগের যে কোন উন্নতি হয়েছে এ বোধ হয় আমাদের জানা নেই; যদি অজানা কিছু হয়ে থাকে বলতে পারি না। Veterinary Department যা আছে তার জন্য খরচ হয়, কিন্তু বাংলার গরুর কি রকম উন্নতি হয়েছে এবং কত সের দুধ বেড়েছে সেরকমভাবে আমার জানা নেই; আপনারা যাঁরা জানেন বলতে পারেন, আমার নিজের জানা নেই। এ রকম বাজেট গত বৎসর পর্য্যন্ত দেখে আসছি। এবৎসর এই স্বাধীন ভারতের স্বাধীন বাংলায় আমাদের অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এই বাজেট পেশ করেছেন এবং আমরা খুব আশা করছি যে এবার হয়ত ভাল কাজ হবে। কিন্তু আশা করবো কাদের কাছে? এই যে বাজেট, এতে যে সমস্ত অর্থ নির্দ্দিষ্ট করা হয় তা খরচ করেন কারা? খরচ হয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের কর্ম্মচারীদের দ্বারা। এই কর্ম্মচারীদের সঙ্গে দেশবাসীর সম্পর্ক কি? এঁদের ভাষা, এঁদের পোষাক-পরিচ্ছদ, এঁদের চালচলন, সেই সমস্তর সঙ্গে দেশবাসীর সম্পর্ক কি? এঁদের পোষাক দেশবাসীর পোষাক নয়। Agricultural Officer, তিনি যে চালচলনে গ্রামে যান, যে ভাষায় কথা বলেন, তাঁর সঙ্গে কথা বলতে ভয় হয়। চাষীদের সঙ্গে কি তাঁরা মেশেন? যাঁরা Veterinary Departmentএ থাকেন তাঁরা কি গোয়ালাদের বাড়ীতে গিয়ে গরু কিভাবে প্রতিপালিত হয়, তার দুধ কেন কমছে, গ্রামে কত ষাঁড় আছে, এসব খবর রাখেন? যে সমস্ত ডাক্তার আছেন চিকিৎসা বিভাগে, সরকারী হাঁসপাতালে অথবা charitable dispensaryতে তাঁরা দেশের লোকের সঙ্গে কিরকম ব্যবহার করেন? আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যদি খোঁজ নেন তাহ'লে বুঝতে পারবেন যে যদিও দেশ স্বাধীন হয়েছে আজও দেশেতে আমাদের গ্রামে বসন্ত এবং কলেরায় গ্রামের লোকেরা পোকামাকড়ের মত মারা যাচ্ছে। আমি কাল খবর পেয়েছি যে ২৪-পরগণায় সুন্দর বন অঞ্চলে ১৫নং ইউনিয়নে ব্যাপকভাবে কলেরা দেখা

গিয়েছে এবং প্রতিদিন ১০০।১৫০ ক'রে লোক মারা যাচ্ছে। আমি শ্রীযুক্ত প্রধান মন্ত্রীর গোচরে এনেছি। তিনি তার ব্যবস্থা করবেন বলেছেন; জানিনে কি ব্যবস্থা হবে। এই অবস্থা আমরা দেখে আসছি। কাজেই বাজেটকে যদি কাজে পরিণত করতে হয় তাহ'লে দেশবাসীর সঙ্গে Government কর্মচারীর একান্ত মেলামেশা দরকার। আমরা এতদিন পর্যান্ত যেভাবে চালিয়ে এসেছি সেভাবে চালানো আর চলবে না। আগে সরকারী কর্মচারীরা মনে করতেন তাঁরা ইংরাজের কর্মচারী এবং তাঁদের স্বার্থের সঙ্গে দেশবাসীর স্বার্থের বিরোধ আছে। তখন যাঁরা কর্মচারী হতেন তাঁরা জানতেন যে ব্যক্তিগত স্বার্থের চাকরী, কি ক'রে তাঁরা সুযোগ করে নিতে পারবেন। তখন সরকারী কর্মচারীরা যেভাবে থাকতেন তাঁদের সঙ্গে দেশবাসীর চালচলনের তফাৎ ছিল। আজকাল আমরা জানি ২০০।৩০০৲ টাকা আর আমাদের বেশী নয়। এর দ্বারা সংসার চালানোই যে কত কষ্টকর তা আমরা মধ্যবিত্ত সম্প্রদায় সকলেই জানি। কিন্তু যাঁরা ২০০।৩০০৲ টাকা বেতন পান Government কর্মচারী তাঁদের যখন দেখি পোষাক প্রভৃতি, তাঁদের থাকবার কায়দা, সে সমস্তর জন্য টাকা পান্ কোথায়? এই যে নিজেদের শক্তির অতীত অবস্থা দেখাতে যান্, সে টাকা দুর্নীতি থেকে আসে। কাজেই এই যে দুর্নীতির কথা শুনি, এ শুনি এইজন্য যে কর্মচারীদের চালচলন বেড়ে গিয়েছে। আমি চাই যে অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের যে সমস্ত পরিকল্পনা সে পরিকল্পনা কাজে পরিণত হউক্। অর্থসচিব মহাশয় একটা পরিকল্পনা আনলেন আর সারা বছর ধরে সেটা কাজে পরিণত হলো না; নূতন অর্থসচিব মহাশয় আবার নূতন পরিকল্পনা আনবেন, তাতে কোন কাজ হবে না। আমার পূর্ব্বে আমাদের গুপ্ত মহাশয় উল্লেখ করেছেন যে আমাদের যে আয় সে আয় দেখে কতকগুলি ব্যয় কমাতে হবে। যেমন মদ, গাঁজা প্রভৃতি যে বিভাগ আছে সে বিভাগের যে আয় হয় তা ধরা উচিত নয়। সে বিভাগ বাস্তবিক কোন সভ্য Governmentএর থাকা উচিত নয়। যেমন আয় কমবে তেমনি ব্যয়ের বিষয়ও আমাদের বিবেচনা করতে হবে। আমাদের এমন কতকগুলি বিভাগ আছে যেখানে আমার মনে হয় ব্যয়সঙ্কোচ করতে হবে। যেমন Commissioner. এই যে Divisional Commissioner, এ পদ রাখবার কোন আবশ্যক আছে বলে আমি মনে করি না। এবং পূর্ব্বেও প্রস্তাব হয়েছিল যে Commissionerএর পদ উঠে যাবে, কিন্তু তা ওঠেনি। এই কমিশনারের পদ ওঠাতে হবে। D. I.-G., I.-G. of Prisons, এই রকম যে কতকগুলি উচ্চ পদ আছে, যেগুলি থাকার কোন আবশ্যকতা নেই, সেগুলি যদি কমানো যায় বহু টাকা বেঁচে যায়। দ্বিতীয় এই যুদ্ধের সময় যে সমস্ত অস্থায়ী বিভাগ যেমন Civil Supplies বিভাগ প্রভৃতি হয়েছিল, তাতে বহু কর্মচারী আছে, এবং এই কর্মচারীদের অবশ্য চাকরী গেলে খুব কষ্ট হবে আমি মনে করি, কিন্তু তথাপি এই বিভাগকে আমাদের সঙ্কোচ করতে হবে। এই সঙ্কোচ করতে গেলে Governmentএর কোন ভয় নেই কারণ যদি শিল্প বাড়ে, কৃষি বাড়ে এবং আমাদের দেশের যে সমস্ত সম্পদ আছে সেগুলির যদি আমরা উন্নতি করতে পারি তাহ'লে এইসব বিভাগে বহু শিক্ষিত যুবক কাজ পাবেন। শিল্প এবং কৃষি প্রভৃতি বিভাগে কোন আশা না থাকাতেই সব যুবক চাকরী দ্বারা জীবিকার্জ্জন করতে চায়। শারীরিক পরিশ্রম দ্বারা জীবিকার্জ্জন করতে শিক্ষিত যুবকদের মধ্যে----

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Sri PRAMATHA NATH BANDYOPADHYAY: এক মিনিট, Sir, আমি শিল্পে বলতে পারি যে আমাদের মেদিনীপুর জেলার কাঁথী subdivisionএর আজ বিরাট একটা সম্ভবনা আছে; সেটা হচ্ছে লবণ শিল্পের সম্ভাবনা। এই লবণ শিল্প সম্বন্ধে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি উৎসাহিত হন্ তাহ'লে বহু শিক্ষিত যুবক ঐ লবণ শিল্পের দ্বারা নিজেদের জীবিকার্জ্জন করতে পারে। কিন্তু লবণ শিল্পের উপরে আমি কিছু নজর রেখে আমার আশঙ্কা হচ্ছে যে কাঁথীর যে বিরাট লবণ শিল্পের সম্ভাবনা সে সম্ভাবনাতে আমাদের দেশের যুবকেরা উপকৃত হবে না। আজ আমাদের দেশের মূলধন না খাটিয়ে হয়ত বাইরের মূলধন আসবে। সেদিন আমি লক্ষ্য করছিলাম যে বম্বের একজন কোটিপতি যিনি পোরবন্দর এবং কাঠিয়াবাড়ে লবণ শিল্পের একজন কর্ত্তা তিনি এসে কাঁথীর লবণ অঞ্চল দেখে গেলেন। হয়ত আজ কাঁথীর লবণ শিল্পে তিনি এসে তার খানিকটা দখল করতে পারেন। আমি সেজন্য বলছি যে এই যে সমস্ত শিল্প আমাদের দেশে আছে তা এই দেশের টাকাতেই এবং এই দেশের লোকের দ্বারাই যাতে সেই সব পরিচালিত হয় তার জন্য আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহাশয় চেষ্টা করবেন। আমি সকলের শেষে----

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Sri PRAMATHANATH BANDYOPADHYAY: এই নিবেদন করছি যে আমাদের সব দেশবাসী এখানকার যাঁরা সভ্য আছেন, সরকারী কর্মচারী এবং দেশবাসী সকলে একত্র মিলে যদি এদেশকে উন্নত করতে না চেষ্টা করেন তাহ'লে শুধু কেবল বাজেট করে এবং বাজেট শুনে কোন কাজ হবে না।

Sj. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: মাননীয় Speaker মহাশয়, বাংলাদেশ দ্বিধা বিভক্ত হয়েছে এবং আজও আমাদের যা assets and liabilities তার ভাগ শেষ হয়নি। এই পরিবর্তন এবং নানা প্রতিকূল অবস্থার মধ্যে অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে তাঁর বাজেট প্রস্তুত করতে হয়েছে। তা সত্ত্বেও তিনি আমাদের জাতিগঠনমূলক বিভাগের প্রতি যে অধিকতর মনোযোগ দিতে পেরেছেন এজন্য আমি তাঁকে অভিনন্দন করছি। এই বাজেটের একটা বৈশিষ্ট্য আমাদের চোখে পড়লো এই যে দেশের নানাবিধ আবশ্যকতার কোনটাও একেবারে উপেক্ষিত হয়নি। আমাদের মধ্যবিত্ত সম্প্রদায়ের, নিম্ন মধ্যবিত্ত সম্প্রদায়ের, গৃহনির্মাণ পরিকল্পনা থেকে আরম্ভ করে community kitchen, সব কিছুই এই বাজেটে সাহায্য পেয়েছে। আমি আমাদের দেশের যে সব সমস্যার সর্ব্বাগ্রে সমাধান প্রয়োজন সেগুলিকে ভিত্তি করে এই বাজেটের বিচার করবো।

আমাদের দেশের সবচেয়ে জরুরী এবং সবচেয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় সমস্যা হচ্চে খাদ্য। আজকে বাংলাদেশের সওয়া ২ কোটি লোকের ভিতর ৭০ লক্ষ অধিবাসীকে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট আধপেটা করে খাইয়ে রাখতে বাধ্য হয়েছে। এছাড়াও অন্যান্য জেলায়, আমি যে জেলা থেকে এসেছি, সেই জেলার সামনে দুর্ভিক্ষের কঙ্কাল ছায়া দেখতে পাচ্ছি। অথচ এই পশ্চিম বাংলার প্রায় ১৬ লক্ষ একর জমি অনাবাদী পড়ে আছে, যদিও সেগুলি সম্পূর্ণ আবাদযোগ্য। এই অনাবাদী জমি যদি আমরা আবাদে পরিণত করতে পারি তাহ'লে বাংলাদেশে খাদ্যের অভাব দু'ই দিনেই দূর হয়ে যেতে পারে। এজমিগুলিকে আবাদে পরিণত করতে হ'লে সবচেয়ে বড় প্রয়োজন সেচব্যবস্থা। আমাদের এই বাজেটে সাধারণ খাতে সেচ সম্পর্কে গতানুগতিক ব্যবস্থাই করা হয়েছে। তবে development project-এর উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনায় আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি আমাদের অর্থসচিব মহাশয় ৬০,৯৬,০০০৲ টাকা এবং Mor reservoir পরিকল্পনা বাবদ ৮৬,০৪,০০০৲ টাকা বরাদ্দ করেছেন। কিন্তু এই উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনায় প্রধান স্থান অধিকার করে আছে প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের চিকিৎসা বিভাগ, সেখানে আড়াই কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ। পশ্চিম বাংলার আমি আমার দু'টি জেলার কথাই বিশেষ করে এখানে তুলবো, জলপাইগুড়ী এবং দার্জিলিং, এই দু'টো ঘাট্‌তি জেলা। পাকিস্থানের মধ্যে দিয়ে এখানে ধান চাল আমদানী করা অত্যন্ত দুরূহ এবং এই দুইটি জেলা পশ্চিম বঙ্গের অন্যান্য জেলা থেকে সম্পূর্ণরূপে বিচ্ছিন্ন হয়ে আছে। এই অঞ্চলগুলিকে স্বাবলম্বী করবার জন্য অগ্রে অবহিত হওয়া উচিত ছিল। এই অঞ্চলে বহু লক্ষ একর, আমি দার্জিলিং পাহাড়ী জেলার কথা বলছি না, শিলিগুড়িতে বহুলক্ষ একর জমি অনাবাদে পড়ে আছে। সামান্য সেচ ব্যবস্থা হ'লে সেগুলি আবাদে পরিণত হ'তে পারে। অথচ আলোচ্য বাজেটে এই দুই অঞ্চলকে সম্পূর্ণ উপেক্ষা করেছে। জলপাইগুড়ী ও শিলিগুড়ী মহকুমা থেকে অনেক ছোট সেচ পরিকল্পনা সরকারের নিকট পেশ করা হয়েছিল, জানি না সেগুলি কোথায় স্থানলাভ করেছে। যে টাকা এই অঞ্চলের জন্য ধরা হয়েছে তাহা অতি সামান্য ও নৈরাশ্যজনক। নদীয়া আর একটা ঘাটতি জেলা হ'লেও জলাভাবে বহু জমি সেখানে অনাবাদি পড়ে আছে। এই জেলার জন্য সেচ খাতে একটি পয়সাও বরাদ্দ করা হয় নাই। অথচ ম্যালেরিয়ার জন্য কুখ্যাত এই জেলার হাজামজা নদীগুলির সংস্কার করলে শুধু যে পতিত জমিগুলির উদ্ধার হ'ত তা নয়, জেলার স্বাস্থ্যেরও বহু উন্নতি হ'ত।

পূর্ব্ববঙ্গ থেকে সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা বেশী আশ্রয়প্রার্থী এই অঞ্চলে এসে উপস্থিত হয়েছে। সেচ বিভাগের বরাদ্দ-ব্যবস্থা থেকে মুর্শিদাবাদকে ছিটেফোঁটা দেওয়া হয়েছে বটে, কিন্তু মালদহের ভাগ্যে পড়েছে শূন্য। বর্দ্ধমান বিভাগকে তার সৌভাগ্যের জন্য অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি।

জীবনযাত্রার মানকে উন্নত করবার জন্য কৃষি শিল্পের প্রসার অত্যাবশ্যক। কৃষি খাতে ২ কোটী ৩১ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। এই পশ্চিম বঙ্গ সরকারের আয়ের তুলনায় এই বরাদ্দ যে একটা মোটা টাকা সে বিষয়ে কোন সন্দেহ নাই। কিন্তু এর মধ্যে ৯৫ লক্ষ ১৫ হাজার টাকা manure বা সার বাবদ, ২৬ লক্ষ টাকা বীচন বা বীজ বিতরণ বাবদ, বাকী ১ কোটী টাকা বেতন ইত্যাদি establishment খরচ বাবদ বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। যে ৯৫ লক্ষ টাকা সার বাবদ ধরা হয়েছে তার মধ্যে ৬১ লক্ষ টাকা হচ্ছে chemical fertiliser-এর জন্য। এই chemical fertiliser বাংলার কৃষকেরা কতখানি গ্রহণ করবে সে বিষয়ে সন্দেহ আছে।

General Administration ও Police বিভাগ ছাড়া এই বিভাগে establishment খাতে সবচেয়ে বেশী টাকা ধরা হয়েছে দেখতে পাচ্ছি। এই বিভাগে কার্য্যের অনুপাতে কর্মচারীর সংখ্যা অনেক বেশী। বাংলাদেশে যে ১৬ লক্ষ একর জমি অনাবাদি পড়ে আছে সেগুলি আবাদি করবার জন্য বৈজ্ঞানিক পদ্ধতি ও যন্ত্রপাতি অনেক স্থলে প্রয়োজন হতে পারে। ভারতবর্ষে আমাদের অন্ততঃ ৫টী প্রদেশ—বোম্বে, বিহার, ইষ্টার্ণ পাঞ্জাব, মধ্যপ্রদেশ—এই কয়টী প্রদেশ Central Government-এর সাহায্যে তাদের নিজেদের অনাবাদি

জমি বৈজ্ঞানিক পদ্ধতি এবং মেকানিক্যাল ট্রাক্টর ইত্যাদির সাহায্যে আবাদে পরিণত করবার কাজে লেগেছেন—কিন্তু বাংলার সেরূপ কোন ব্যবস্থা আমরা বর্ত্তমান বাজেটে দেখতে পাচ্ছি না। বীচনের জন্য অনেক টাকা ধরা হয়েছে। কিন্তু বীচন সময়মত প্রাপ্তির উপরই এর সার্থকতা নির্ভর করছে।

শিল্পোন্নতি বিভাগ প্রধান মন্ত্রী তাঁর নিজের হাতে রেখেছেন। এর chemical planning বাবদ ৫ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ দেখে এই বিভাগের ভবিষ্যৎ সম্বন্ধে মনে কিছুটা আশার সঞ্চার হয়েছে। ট্যানিং ও শ্রীরামপুর ট্রেনিং ইন্‌ষ্টিটিউট ব্যতীত এই বৎসর কয়েকটা কুটীর শিল্পের অবতারণা করা হয়েছে—সুখের বিষয় সন্দেহ নাই। পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা দিয়ে হাতে তৈরী কাগজ ও ৫৭ হাজার টাকা দিয়ে গুড় শিল্পের কি উন্নতি হবে জানি না। আর একটা কুটীর শিল্পের প্রতি অর্থসচিব মহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করতে চাই। পশমের সূতা ও কম্বল তৈরী। দার্জিলিং জেলায় কালিম্পংএ অপর্য্যাপ্ত পশম হয়। কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্টকে যুদ্ধের সময় মুর্শিদাবাদ ও বর্দ্ধমান জেলার বিভিন্ন অঞ্চল থেকে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার পশমী কম্বল তৈরী করে সরবরাহ করা হয়েছিল। এই পশম শিল্প নষ্ট হতে দেওয়া উচিত নয়।

রেশম শিল্পের জন্য বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট অনেক অর্থ ব্যয় করছেন। কিন্তু মুষ্টিমেয় ব্যবসাদাররা দাদন দ্বারা মূল্য নিয়ন্ত্রণ করছে বলে আশানুরূপ সফলতা লাভ করছে না। আমরা চাই বাংলার গ্রামে গ্রামে কুটীর শিল্পের দ্রুত প্রসার। এই প্রসার করতে হলে

(The member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

(At this stage the House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to felicitate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for presenting the first Congress budget of West Bengal in a self-governing India. It is a unique honour which, as Janab Abul Hashem has said, he has deservedly earned by virtue of his long service and rich experience.

In trying to examine the budget and assess the various proposals it contains, I must confess I have a feeling of some embarrassment. Although the Finance Minister has been the recipient of high encomiums as also of much adverse criticism, I believe neither is due to him in any appreciable measure. Evidently he could not possibly have devoted much time and attention to its preparation. I feel, Sir, we shall not be doing justice to the undoubted financial acumen and genius of the Finance Minister if we were to ascribe to him either wholly or even substantially the real authorship of the budget.

Apart from certain important and fundamental considerations, to which I shall presently refer, the discerning will notice many a small indication in the budget which will bear out the correctness of my statement. For example, the pattern, the general framework, the presentation of the budget as also of the Finance Minister's statement are what may be called traditional. For another, demand head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" is still described as including items which are distinguishable from normal and ordinary expenditure of the province. I doubt, Sir, if that description still holds good today. For yet another, although textiles have been decontrolled, the Directorate of Textiles in the Civil Supplies Department still continues. Probably the only important work that this Directorate has to perform is in regard to distribution of yarn. I would suggest that this work could easily be transferred to the Directorate of Transportation and Consumer Goods, thereby eliminating one of the existing five Directorates in the Civil Supplies Department and effecting some economy in expenditure. I shall not cite any more of these small instances in support of my statement.

Sir, one of the more important and fundamental reasons why I am loath to make the Finance Minister primarily or wholly responsible for the preparation of the budget is the absence of any fruitful endeavour to recast or readjust it in the light of altered conditions. I shall try to illustrate my

point by a reference to certain figures in the revised estimates of 1946-47 for undivided Bengal and the budget estimates for 1948-49 of West Bengal. Unfortunately, neither the Blue Book nor the Red Book gives us any figures of the actuals of 1946-47. The total revenue of undivided Bengal, apart from Central assistance, in 1946-47 was 37 crores. The corresponding figure for West Bengal in 1948-49 is 25 crores or 68 per cent. of what it was in 1946-47 for undivided Bengal. The revenue expenditure in 1946-47 for undivided Bengal outside of Central assistance was 39 crores. The corresponding figure for West Bengal in 1948-49 is 24·4 crores or 65 per cent. of what it was in 1946-47 for undivided Bengal. If Central assistance is taken into account, then the proportion of expenditure in West Bengal in 1948-49 will be about 75 per cent. of what it was in 1946-47 for undivided Bengal.

Sir, this unfortunate trait of the Budget has not escaped the notice of the Finance Minister, and on pages 18 and 19 of his Budget Statement he has detailed the major causes as to why expenditure is not in accord with the reduction of the size of the province. I am afraid, Sir, on a closer scrutiny many of these reasons do not appear to be quite so satisfactory. Expenditure on General Administration, which should reflect in a large measure the effect of the influx of surplus services personnel from East Bengal, is in 1948-49 only 52 per cent. of what it was in 1946-47 for undivided Bengal. Extraordinary charges in India again, which should reflect in a large measure the charges peculiar to Calcutta, are only 40 per cent. in 1948-49 of what it was in 1946-47. Again, increase in beneficent expenditure to which the Finance Minister has referred is, as he has also pointed out, most noticeable under head "40—Agriculture". I have tried to analyse the expenditure under this head and the result is not quite satisfactory as a reference to some of the major sub-heads will bear out.

Under Agriculture—Direction, it is mostly establishment expenses: in 1946-47, Rs. 1,71,000, in 1948-49, Rs. 2,38,000 or 140 per cent. of what it was in 1946-47; Superintendence—mostly establishment expenses—Rs. 6,04,000 in 1946-47, Rs. 44,28,000 in 1948-49, or 733 per cent. of what it was in 1946-47; Botanical and other public gardens—also mostly establishment expenses—128 per cent. in 1948-49 of what it was in 1946-47. Thus the increase in expenditure under most of these sub-heads is accounted for mostly by establishment expenses and what benefit will accrue therefrom to agricultural development is rather problematical.

I may also draw the attention of the Finance Minister to the fact that expenditure under Presidency Police is 90 per cent. more in 1948-49 than what it was in 1946-47 for undivided Bengal. I am afraid, Sir, that expenditures like these are responsible for eating away the surplus that this year's budget was at one time expected to yield and which it was hoped would be available for beneficent activities. I would therefore urge upon the Finance Minister to bring to bear his undoubted skill and ability upon a close scrutiny of expenditure under the different sub-heads with a view to release as much money as possible from out of ordinary expenditure for financing development projects. Because, in so far as the Provincial Government is concerned, I do not find, Sir, any very large scope for expension of revenues. We must therefore concentrate our attention more on the expenditure side. Of course this may result in some unemployment among Government employees. The scope therefore of their absorption in developmental projects and also in measures which the Government may institute for the security of the province should be carefully explored. I believe the Government should also make arrangements for training of lascars and certain categories of railway employees and the like, of whom there is a great dearth not only in West Bengal but also in the whole of the Indian Union.

I may also mention, Sir, without disclosing any secret that the division of expenditure of undivided Bengal over the period 1920-21 to 1938-39 was 53·9 per cent. for West Bengal and 46·1 per cent. for East Bengal, and I believe the ratio had remained substantially the same in subsequent years. It is essential therefore that strenuous effort should be made to bring down our expenditure from 65 per cent. to this figure. In truth, inasmuch as there was admittedly large wastage of expenditure under previous Governments in undivided Bengal, the proportion should come down to a figure even lower than 53·9 per cent.

Another important reason why I think, Sir, the Finance Minister could not possibly have given much time and attention to the preparation of the budget will be found in an analysis of the Government's development programme. The Finance Minister has himself admitted that the development projects are to a great extent continuation of schemes already taken in hand before the date of partition. If any honourable member would care to compare the lists of development projects appended to the Budget Statements of the previous and the present Finance Ministers he will be impressed by the measure of their identity. The only welcome exception, or about the only welcome exception, to that rule is the development programme of the Irrigation Department and the Minister in charge, who unfortunately is not present here, deserves congratulation for his energy and intiative.

I would invite the Finance Minister to peruse the comments and observations we had offered in this House on the development programme introduced by the previous Ministry in undivided Bengal and try to appreciate our anxiety in this matter. Our main criticisms were that this programme had no plan behind it, was a departmental affair, and therefore not likely to make the most fruitful use of the money that was going to be spent on such projects. It is probable that many of the schemes will have been so far advanced that they cannot be held up. Yet I would request the Finance Minister to examine the projects more carefully in the light of the criticisms that we had offered while occupying the benches opposite.

In the second place, quite a few of the schemes included in the development programme are really not developmental in character and should more appropriately have been included in the ordinary budget. Expenditures like the cost of running a Labour Journal or maintenance and repair costs of existing hospitals are cases in point.

In the third place, the Finance Minister's statement that "having regard to the fact that efforts are likely to be wasted or be productive of very limited results in the absence of timely and carefully drawn up plans as parts of an integrated comprehensive scheme, it has been decided to set up special organisations for the survey of requirements and for comprehensive planning in respect of" what may be called the nation-building departments, appears to me to be somewhat confusing in view of the already budgeted expenditure of a little over 6¼ crores in the ensuing year, presumably in the absence of an adequate survey of requirements and of comprehensive planning.

It is also a moot point to which my honourable friend Sri J. C. Gupta had also referred, whether the objective of drawing up an integrated comprehensive scheme would be adequately served by providing separate allotments to different departments for planning. I would urge upon the Finance Minister to give his serious thought to this problem with a view to avoiding waste of resources, duplication of work and possible inter-departmental squabbles. The Finance Minister should also give us some idea of the planning machinery that he would like to set up.

In the fourth place, we should like to have some idea from the Finance Minister of the funds that may be available for developmental projects, say,

over the next 3 to 5 years. How much can we expect from the Central Government? The Central Government had at one time assured, if I remember rightly, an amount of nearly 70 crores to undivided Bengal for development projects. How much of this money had already been obtained? How much can we expect for West Bengal from the Central Government? What are the prospects again of any surplus being available from out of the ordinary revenues? In the context of the present budget, that prospect would appear to be rather depressing. What again are the prospects of raising big loans? I do not know, Sir, but I am afraid that both against the background of the present budget and the money market conditions obtaining now, I cannot share the optimism of the Finance Minister that in executing and planning our future development programme lack of money will not prove a very serious obstacle. I am aware that shortage of raw materials, lack of machinery and trained personnel are great handicaps, but in the future lack of funds is also likely to prove another bottle-neck.

I would also request the Finance Minister to explain a little more fully what he meant by the "potentialities immediately ahead of us" which, if fully realised would, according to him, entitle us to take a more definitely optimistic view of the future.

I think, Sir, I have said enough to explain why I said at the beginning that I could not hold the Finance Minister very much responsible for the present budget.

I would now draw your attention to a few other aspects of the budget for your consideration. In the first place, in the industrial sphere I am glad the Government realise that a large sector of industry would have still to be left to private enterprise. Having said that, I am sorry the Finance Minister has hedged in this proposition with various other statements and the final picture does not emerge very clearly. Nothing is more inimical to expansion of production than vague generalisation and confused statements of policy. I would request the Finance Minister to give us a clear and concrete declaration of policy on (1) the specific industries, if any, which the Government want to nationalise, and/or (2) the specific industries, if any, that the Government would like to control and the forms of control that Government would like to impose. This enunciation of policy may relate to a period of 3 to 5 years.

In the second place the dichotomy of the province's economy into an urban and a rural sector to which the Finance Minister appears to have referred rather approvingly on pages 5 and 6 of his statement can no longer be regarded as a happy or necessary development. With the development of electricity which would be available even to rural areas I believe a strenuous effort would be made to give a quietus to the age-old feud between the urban and rural areas comparable in the inter-national sphere to the rivalry between industrial and agricultural countries. If future trouble is to be avoided and the welfare of every part of the province promoted, I believe the disparity which today exists between the development and well-being of urban and rural areas should be removed at as early a date as possible.

In the third place I have already indicated my views on the development programme. And I do not like to dilate on that matter except to say that the absence of any indication of the planning machinery that Government would like to set up is a weak point in Government's planning endeavours and is liable to make them open to the charge of proceeding without sufficient forethought.

In the fourth place, Sir, the Finance Minister has provided 50 lakhs for improvement of Calcutta's transport facilities but has not indicated the way in which it should be utilised. If newspaper reports are to be relied upon, Government's intention appears to be to form a company in whose share

capital Government will participate and which will run a fleet of buses. As private capital is not shy in this sphere, I do not find the necessity of Government contributing to share capital in this particular field. I believe, Sir, in any commercial enterprise partly private ownership and control and partly State ownership and control are likely to give rise to awkard problems and create difficulties. Would it not be a better proposition to leave the entire business either to private enterprise or alternatively, if the Government so desire, to nationalise Calcutta's city transport, or at least control and manage it by setting up a transport board or some such machinery.

In the fifth place, the absence of any mention of the East Bengal refugee problem I consider a short-coming of the budget. As items have been mentioned for which no plans have yet been drawn up and no moneys provided for such as the very laudable proposal of assistance to political sufferers, I feel that some mention of the East Bengal refugee problem was called for. I am sure the Government are aware of this problem and would let us know their plans in this regard.

The Finance Minister has expressed his hope and belief that there is ground for taking a definitely optimistic view of the future. I wish I could share that hope in an appreciable measure against the background of this year's budget. But at the same time I have not the least doubt in my mind that if only the Finance Minister will bring to bear his unrivalled expert knowledge on the many facets of West Bengal's finances, we may yet look forward to a much brighter and happier future for this new province of West Bengal.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I was listening, with as much attention as the importance of the occasion required, to the speeches made in criticism of the budget, I was struck by the variety of angles from which the same object may be viewed. Some of the criticisms were very helpful in giving me new ideas and I thank the Honourable Members who made valuable contributions to the budgetary problems of the province. Some Honourable Members however are obviously still wedded to the old familiar policy of criticism for criticism's sake. I trust that in course of time as we get more used to the new set-up there will be an adequate re-orientation in our outlook.

The Honourable Member for the Muslim Chamber of Commerce has said that the Government should create an Opposition. I must confess that I have failed exactly to understand what the Honourable Member meant, unless he was referring to the experiment attempted with indifferent results by Kamal Pasha in Turkey by decree. A healthy Opposition, following a constructive policy, has always, within itself, all the factors that make for sturdy growth and should not await the sanction or consent of the Government that it seeks to oppose. I have always attached great value to healthy opposition to a Government for it indicates that there are people who take an intelligent interest in the affairs of the State and who can, in their turn, make up for the shortcomings of those whom they oppose. It is a truism that in a democratic party Government, the Opposition of today is the Government of tomorrow. But it is also equally true that there must be a modicum of agreement between the Government and the Opposition on certain fundamental principles which govern the nation's weal. Parties, as has been well pointed out, operate best when they rest on important divisions of opinion within a common background of agreement on fundamental principles. Subject to this proviso a Finance Minister, overwhelmed by his many problems, can only welcome the criticism of those who are not on his side of the House. Just as the Honourable Members on the other side expect the Government to justify itself in their eyes, would it be too optimistic to hope that the Opposition, by their helpful and constructive criticism, should justify the honoured name which they bear? There is safety in numbers, they say. But the value of an Opposition depends more

on its taking an effective interest in the affairs of the State, as an organised body. I shall convey to my Government the demand which the Honourable Member has put forward and I have no doubt that all legitimate facilities for discharging their duties as an Opposition will be readily conceded.

Some Honourable Members have found the budget stereotyped, dealing as it must inevitably do, with the old familiar themes like Irrigation, Education, Administration, Police, Revenue, Public Health, and so on. I do not know what the Honourable Members expected to find in a budget outside the old familiar story of the stupendous problems facing any Government which may happen to be in the saddle and the inadequacy of our resources. This is a legacy of the past which we have to carry forward from year to year until the new forces have had time to prove effective in liquidating it. I confess that in dealing with the problems of our national life I had perforce to discuss the same old problems which have hitherto defied a solution. A budget is essentially a tentative estimate of receipts and expenditures. No amount of wishful thinking can enhance the receipts to the proportion of the resources of other free countries like America or Russia in the twinkling of an eye; nor can we slur over any essential expenditure such as the cost of maintaining Law and Order and other beneficent activities which, however, may pay delayed or only indirect dividends. This is, or should be, an inescapable principle in the framing of the budget in any country. I confess, however, that I may have failed to present a very clear picture of our problems and our hopes for the future in this, the first budget, framed so soon after the birth of our new province. It is unfortunate but true that a nation's miseries die hard. And here again the remedy lies in the hands of those who constitute the nation and not on its Government alone, however wise and well-intentioned. If multiplying three by four yields twelve as a result today as it did everywhere and every time, the blame, if blame be any, should be laid at the doors of the immutable laws of nature. Some Honourable Members have justly pointed out that merely providing funds in a budget is not enough, it is the duty of the Government to see that the schemes are properly implemented. The Government are in complete agreement with this view and I propose, at the end of the year, to make a statement before the House to show what progress we have achieved in various directions.

Some adverse criticism has been levelled against my exultation at the fact that today we are breathing an air of freedom. That air, it is pointed out, is tainted with the stink of blood and our Communist Comrade says that all that we have achieved is only Dominion Status. I shall not quarrel over the name by which we call our newly earned status. If the freedom which we have got can give us, as it has done, the fullest opportunity for self-expression and self-development free from any outside control, I shall always value it as the beginning of the realisation of our national aspirations. If we have temporarily lapsed into the law of the jungle, we are, at any rate, out of the cage.

Freedom, after all, is an abstract conception and a means to an end. Its material manifestation depends on the toil and earnestness of those who are free. To point at our poverty, illiteracy and many other shortcomings in our national life, to argue that we are not free, is to deny that we are alive because we are suffering from a malady. That malady cannot be removed by the magic wand of the Government nor can human nature undergo an electric metamorphosis which will suddenly change our resources in men and material overnight. Our freedom is only what we can make of it ourselves, through years of earnest endeavour and ungrudging sacrifice.

It is necessary to realise at the outset exactly where we stand. Our province is not even a Dominion but a State within a young Dominion. We are still within the framework of the adapted Government of India 1935 Act which imposes limitations on our financial and monetary resources. In that

context, certain financial powers are vested on the provinces and certain others on the Central Government. A province cannot go beyond the Provincial List, however much it may wish to do so and however great the need. Where, therefore, some Honourable Members in their revolutionary zeal, urge the desirability of imposing further taxation on the rich, I can perhaps support their plea on the ground of equity, but I have to plead my inability to satisfy them on the ground of our constitutional limitations. The two most recognised forms of progressive taxation which tend to bring about a more equitable distribution of wealth are, of course, Income-tax and Estate Duty. But both these taxes can only be imposed by the Centre although we are entitled to a share of the revenue. None of the Honourable Members have given any concrete suggestions as to how we can further tax the rich within our provincial sphere, with any substantial results. But I am always ready to learn. The Honourable Members are, no doubt, aware that incomes in this country are taxed to their uttermost capacity and it is doubtful if there is any further scope of increasing the rates without adding to the retarding effects on our economy already in evidence. The impact of taxation on income in this country is the severest in the world and the highest rate of fifteen and a half annas in the rupee comes into operation at a level of income which is much lower than in any other country in the world. It is my honest view that the stage has been reached when it is to be seriously considered whether it is possible to give any relief to the people groaning under the burden of the heavy income-tax in the interests of our national development To overload the caravan is but to retard its progress.

Some Honourable Members have expressed their disappointment that the Government have not immediately launched on a more rapid comprehensive plan for nationalisation of industries. Here, again, it is necessary that we should take stock of our position with a clear vision unclouded by common-places of doctrinaire politics. Socialism today is undoubtedly our economic goal and socialisation of industries is certainly the first essential step to that goal. But the process of our evolution to that stage must be gradual. The first emphasis, as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has urged, must be on production. Increased production will automatically create more jobs, thus enhancing our national wealth and reducing unemployment—the two most important problems before us. But the Government today, with its limited resources in men, money and material, can neither undertake nationalisation on a large scale which will absorb a reasonably large number of our unemployed and under-employed population. There would thus hardly be any justification, at the present stage, to so shake the existing industrial structure as might cause serious dislocations in our economy. The supreme need of the country is increase of production and Pandit Nehru has categorically stated that the Government of India are not going to sacrifice production for the pursuit of any slogan. We cannot block our meagre resources simply for the pleasure of owning existing industries without reference to our ability to undertake them. In countries which have accepted a more or less socialistic programme without revolution, the question is not one of complete socialisation of industries all at once and abolition of private enterprise, but of examination from time to time of the extent to which the social sector may be increased by placing new industries on the list of state-owned enterprises. In that view of the matter our advance towards socialisation should be gradual if we are to avoid a sudden and violent change and costly errors. We have also to remember that nationalisation as a policy must emanate from the Centre which is the seat of the nation's authority. We can implement such schemes only to the extent of our provincial resources and constitutional limits. It is needless to add that we shall, within our competence, give effect to any policy of nationalisation that the Centre may decide to pursue. In my view the sensible Socialist, conscious of the magnitude of the tasks which must

confront him in any event, will be anxious to avoid unnecessary widening of the range of his responsibilities and to make use of any existing institutions which can be adapted to serve his ends. He will not want to knock anything over merely to give himself the pleasure of building it up afresh. He will have quite enough on his hands with the necessary work of creation to have no time left for super-erogatory works of destruction.

It has become almost the fashion today to cite the Russian example. But we forget that there are big gaps in the analogy. Communism was born in Russia through the blood, sweat and tears of a revolution, whereas we are attempting the experiment through the more gradual and peaceful process of democracy. (Sri JYOTI BASU: More people have died here in riots than throughout the Russian Revolution.) Maybe in riots but not in revolution.

Even in Russia the first five years were years of groping and experimentation. The world is watching their experiments with the socialistic philosophy with admiration and interest. But it would perhaps be a mistake to try to improve on their *modus operandi* either in the matter of time or downrightness. Even the execution of the first Five-Year Plan in Soviet Russia required great courage and utter ruthlessness and a general tightening up of belts in all classes of the community, all based on expectations of future benefits. To expect to achieve all this by a short-cut and without paying a price would be a poor recognition of Communism as a sound economic philosophy.

Mr. Jyoti Basu has criticised the budget because the Sales Tax and the tax on intoxicating drinks still figure on the revenue side of the budget. But would it surprise the Honourable Member to learn that in 1936 Sales Tax or tax on the total turnover accounted for 79 per cent. of the total revenue in Soviet Russia and is still as high as 70 per cent.? Vodka, their national intoxicating beverage, is also subject to the Turnover Tax. I am not holding a brief against prohibition or for the Sales Tax which undoubtedly affects the common man. But, however much a conscientious Communist may decry the Sales Tax, it has not been found practicable by the principal nations of the world to abolish it, certainly not by the nation that set Communism in vogue.

As I was listening to the speech of Mr. Jyoti Basu, making all sorts of fantastic allegations and insinuations, I was reminded of a remark of Poet Rabindra Nath Tagore:—

"কাঁচা বাঁশে লাঠি হয় কিন্তু বাঁশী হয় না,
ছেলে বয়সে জ্যাঠামি করা যায়, কিন্তু জ্যাঠা হওয়া যায় না।"

As for the demand for the immediate abolition of the zemindary system, the Honourable Members are aware that the principle has been accepted by the Government who are doing their best to expedite its implementation. But considerable spade-work is necessary. We are working under an Act which provides for paying reasonable compensation for acquisition of zemindary rights. And to do so, preparation of records and calculation of the amount of compensation in each case are necessary. For this initial work we have provided for 10 lakhs in the Budget and the work will start immediately. (Sri JYOTI BASU: It will take 50 years.) The rates of compensation and the question of necessary financial arrangement are being discussed at the all-India level. I hope the Honourable Members do not think that we have put the question in cold storage for the present. It is being continuously pursued.

I have just now heard Mr. Jyoti Basu saying that it will take 50 years. If he wants a short-cut method, I would ask him to introduce a private Bill himself to abolish the zemindary system overnight.

Sri JYOTI BASU: Without compensation it can be done.

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: It can be done only if the members of the Assembly pass the Bill and the Governor-General's sanction is obtained.

Sri JYOTI BASU: গভর্ণর-জেনারেলকে বল্‌লেই ত হয়,—এখন যখন Independence পেয়েছেন।

The Hon'ble Sri NALINI RANJAN SARKER: The Honourable Member may try this. Misgivings have been expressed by the Honourable Member Sri Annada Choudhury as to whether the growth of cottage industries is likely to be affected by the promotion of large-scale and middle-sized organized industrial development. I may assure the House that Government are fully alive to the need for encouraging cottage industries and giving them all possible facilities for development. Our country is yet so industrially undeveloped and our requirements are expanding so rapidly that there is considerable scope for development in rural industries as well as in large-scale and middle-sized industries, without any unhealthy competition amongst the three. There is as yet ample scope for all three to develop side by side and it will not be the policy of the Government to disturb this condition which, I think, is fundamentally necessary for our economy. As between cottage industries and large-scale industries there is, in fact, a considerable field for mutual collaboration and complementary production and adjustment of spheres of operation. We hope to pursue a policy and programme whereby it will be possible to achieve these objectives and secure thereby a balanced development of rural industries as well as large-scale industries so that the economic standard of the people may rise steadily and substantially. There is absolutely no reason to apprehend that our policy in regard to large-scale industries will handicap cottage and small-scale industries. Indeed, it will be our constant endeavour to see that cottage industries receive all possible facilities for expansion from the State.

It appears that my observations in connection with the provision of funds for Labour have created some confusion in the minds of some Honourable Members. I proceed hastily to make it clear beyond doubt that whatever provision has been made was for the establishment of the necessary machinery and not to subsidise any Trade Union Organisation. The Hon'ble Minister for Labour will, no doubt, make the Government's policy clear to the House while dealing with the demands for grants for his department. But in the meantime I wish to fully associate myself with the speech recently delivered on the floor of the House by the Honourable Member Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerji. There should be a natural sequence in the procedure adopted in settling labour disputes such as conciliation, in the first instance, and arbitration, when conciliation fails to yield results. But at no stage can one uphold the methods sometimes resorted to by Labour to coerce employers into conceding their demands. It is an open secret that Labour often is a tool in the hands of those who are not concerned with the ethics of their methods so long as they gain their ends. The growth of healthy Trade Unionism, far from intimidating employers and managers, should be welcomed as a remedy against such questionable methods and this is what I meant by "development" of Trade Unions on sound lines.

Some of the Honourable Members have said that we have gone against the assurance given by the previous Ministry in the matter of adopting in the provincial sphere the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission in regard to the increase of rates of pay of the subordinate staff. I have seen the answer given by my predecessor, Srijut Chowdhury, in reply to a question on the subject and it is for the implementation of that assurance that we have provided for a crore of rupees in the budget. What Srijut Chowdhury said on the floor of the House is as follows: "This Government are of the opinion that with a view to secure uniformity of practice with

the Indian Union the revision, standardisation, rationalisation of pay scales in this province should be based as far as practicable on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission, and action on these lines is being taken accordingly".

As far as I am aware, every province is examining the question as to how far they could go in approximating to the pay scales recommended by the Central Pay Commission and that no province has yet found that they can go to the full extent. Even Bombay, which has far better revenue resources and a revenue reserve of over 18 crores which she has been able to create over the last few years, has not found it possible to adopt the scales recommended by the Central Pay Commission and has since provided for a smaller increase in the scales of pay for its own employees. Some other provinces, including our neighbouring provinces of Bihar and Orissa, which provide the bulk of our poor grade employees, have not been able to implement the Pay Commission's recommendations and have proposed to give an increment of pay according to their own resources. So, following on the same policy we have provided for a crore of rupees and we intend that we shall go as far as we can with this amount in the lowest ranges of pay. As I have pointed out already our financial resources do not permit us to give full effect to the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission all at once. And it is probable that the repercussions of our action may lead to the creation of further liabilities which our resources will fail to meet. I do not also see why, with our scanty resources, made scantier by the recent division, we should be the pioneer province in India in this respect. Let it not be construed that I have no sympathy for the hard lot of this class of employees. But we have naturally to follow a gradual process in view of the various factors involved. It has been suggested by some of the Honourable Members that the financial resources necessary for giving effect to the Central Pay Commission's recommendations in the lower pay scales could be obtained by a downward revision of the salary of the higher paid employees. This suggestion is based on certain misconceptions. I shall mention some figures in this connection. The number of officers drawing salary at the rate of Rs. 1,000 or over per month is roughly 157 and the total salary they draw per month is roughly 2½ lakhs. On the lowest scales we have roughly one lakh Government servants drawing salary of Rs. 150 or below per month. So even by a 50 per cent. reduction of the salary of the higher paid officers, the sum that would be released is about one lakh and a quarter which, if distributed among one lakh employees in the lowest cadre, would lead to an increase of Re. 1 per head per month. This would be a poor relief for the subordinate staff, whereas the 50 per cent. reduction in the higher scales may result in the reduction in the efficiency of the fresh recruits under prevailing conditions. Besides, in this country many of the higher paid employees in all-India services are covered by a guarantee against a reduction of their pay. We have, in this connection, to bear in mind that all over the world today the demand for efficient managerial and technical staff has increased to such an extent that there is a tendency, even in a country like Soviet Russia, to revise the salaries of these experts in an upward direction. We are, however, examining the scales of pay of the poor paid staff with a view to finding out to what extent we can increase the rates of pay and when our survey is complete I shall place a White Paper on the table.

I have heard with great interest the very lucid statement of Mr. Walker on the question of jute quotas and the confusion it has created in the world jute market. I agree that it is a matter of vital importance to West Bengal. The subject, however, is under the control of the Central Government. Because of the importance of the matter I am taking it up with the Centre and shall try to make a statement on the floor of the House in the near future.

Sir, different Members have raised different issues in the discussion. The time at my disposal will not permit me to reply to every question raised, but we shall get an opportunity to clear those points at the time of discussion on demands for grants. Today Sri Bimal Comar Ghose has asked me categorically to give him a picture of next four or five years' finance, but may I point out, it is not possible today. It is not possible now because our Constitution is in the process of framing. We do not know what sort of revenues will be allotted to us in the Constitution Act that is being framed in Delhi. So I think the next two years will be our transition period. After we finally know what will be our resources, we can give a picture for the next few years.

Before I resume my seat I want to submit before the House that I have stressed the difficulties not with a view to shirk our responsibilities but to let the Honourable Members form a correct view of the realities of the situation. As for my colleagues and myself I can assure the Honourable Members, if any assurance is necessary, that we shall spare no pains in addressing ourselves to the task of resolving those difficulties and proceed with the development schemes to the best of our ability.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-2 p.m. till 3-45 p.m. on Wednesday, the 3rd March, 1948, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 3rd March, 1948, at 3-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 57 members.

Obituary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and Gentlemen, before we proceed with the business of the House it is my most painful duty to bring to the notice of the House the sad demise of Sri Debi Prosad Khaitan, who was until January, a member of this House. He was a member of this House since 1937 and was a very valuable member of this House. His opinions and his views were always given due credit and due importance in this House. He was also for a considerable time a member of the old Bengal Legislative Council and took a very prominent part at the time when the Calcutta Municipal Act was on the anvil being introduced by Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee. He was also a member of the Calcutta Corporation for a considerable time. At the time of his death he was a member chosen by us of the Constituent Assembly. He was a member of the Union Powers Committee and was one of the 7 members who were entrusted with the task of drafting the constitution of India, which constitution has now been published. He was born at Midnapore in 1888; in 1911 he became a solicitor and within a short period of 7/8 years the firm which he started became one of the most important solicitors' firms of the Calcutta High Court. In 1919 he left the profession and became attached to Messrs. Birla Brothers, Ltd., and up to the time of his death he was connected with that firm. After he left the profession he took a very prominent part in the commercial sphere of the Courts. He became the President of the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce. He was also the President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta. He was also deputed to represent India in several Conferences in Europe and in other countries. By his death we have lost a fine scholar, a great constitutionalist and so far as the commercial world is concerned it has lost a very valuable guide and helper. He was of a very amiable temperament and an asset to the country. By his death a void has been created which it is difficult to fill. So far as I am personally concerned I worked in his office since 1916 and I was connected with the firm which he started until I was chosen to represent you as the Speaker in this House. Therefore so far as my personal bereavement is concerned I feel it all the more. I think it is the desire of the House that we should send a message of condolence to the members of the bereaved family and I do hope that you will be pleased to rise in your seats and offer your condolence by remaining silent for one minute.

(The members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen. The Secretary will do the needful.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Corruption in Relief Departments of Contai Subdivision.

*5. (SHORT NOTICE.) **Sri PRAMATHA NATH BANDYOPADHAY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operation, Credit and

Relief Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that recently huge sums of money were misappropriated by Government servants of Relief Departments of Contai subdivision, by selling articles meant for relief, and submitting false accounts and various other illegal means?

(*b*) If the answer be in the affirmative, do the Government propose that a Public Enquiry Committee should be set up to enquire into the matter and submit reports thereon?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Accountant-General's office of Bengal was making enquiries about keeping of false and illegal accounts by the Relief Officers of Contai? If so, what is the result of those enquiries?

The Hon'ble Sri NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: (*a*) There have been numerous audit objections and investigation is proceeding for the purpose of eliciting all relevant facts.

(*b*) No public enquiry is contemplated at present.

(*c*) The Accountant-General has pointed out irregularities. Further enquiries will reveal whether there has been any misappropriation of public money.

Sri PRAMATHA NATH BANDYOPADHYAY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বলবেন কি কতদিন পরে সেই enquiry শেষ হবে ?

The Hon'ble Sri NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: যত শীঘ্র সম্ভব পারা যায় করা হবে।

Sri PRAMATHA NATH BANDYOPADHYAY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া করে বলবেন কি এই রকম যে কেবল এক জায়গায় হয়েছে তা নয়, সমস্ত বাংলায় হচ্ছে ? এই enquiry কি শুধু এক জায়গায় হবে, না সমস্ত জায়গায় হবে ?

The Hon'ble Sri NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: যে রকম খবর পাওয়া গেছে তাতে কাঁথিতে বেশী হয়েছে বলে শোনা গেছে।

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: With reference to (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to the nature of the audit objections, if he is aware of them?

The Hon'ble Sri NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: There have been, so far as storing is concerned, certain irregularities; so far as the distribution of muster rolls and dry rations are concerned there have been irregularities and also in regard to accounts and balance of stocks and several other things.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: In view of the irregularities to which the Hon'ble Minister has just now referred, does he not think it would be in the interest of the public as well as of the administration to set up an enquiry with which some non-official members may be associated?

The Hon'ble Sri NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Yes, I have already answered that question that after the departmental enquiry, if I am not satisfied, I shall certainly set up a public enquiry.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the enquiry has already been set up or whether——

The Hon'ble Sri NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Yes, departmental enquiries are going on.

Restriction on publication of "Swadhinata".

*6. **Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that censorship was imposed on the daily newspaper *Swadhinata* restricting its publication?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the said restriction has since been withdrawn?

(*d*) If so, when and for what reasons?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: (*a*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*b*) For publishing three editorial articles on 31st January, 1948, 2nd February, 1948, and 3rd February, 1948, which in the opinion of the Government tended to incite lawlessness and violence.

(*d*) The Order was withdrawn on 6th February, 1948, because the Government was satisfied after discussion with the management of *Swadhinata* that nothing would be published in the paper which might tend to incite lawlessness and violence.

Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any written undertaking has been given by the *Swadhinata*?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I have nothing more to add.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Premier be pleased to state what was the discussion between the management of the paper and himself?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I have nothing more to add.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble the Premier be pleased to state if he is satisfied after what transpired between him and the management of the paper that it will no longer, in future, publish materials which would tend to incite lawlessness and violence?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: If the Government were not satisfied they would not have withdrawn the Order and this is proved by the fact that the paper since then has been behaving very well.

Sri SHYAMAPADA BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any verbal assurance has been given?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I have nothing more to add.

Sri BIMAL COMAR GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble the Premier be pleased to state if he does not consider it desirable that the House should be taken into confidence in the matter of the discussion that took place and what transpired between himself and the management of *Swadhinata*?

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: I do not think so, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Questions over. Government Business.

Amendments to the Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

The Hon'ble Dr. BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY: Sir, I beg to lay the amendments to the Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The West Bengal Premises Rent Control (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1947, as reported by the Select Committee.

The Hon'ble Sri MOHINI MOHAN BARMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Premises Rent Control (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1947, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that in the first proviso to clause 1(*3*), line 6, for the expression "proviso (*i*)" the expression "clause (*i*) of the proviso" be substituted.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, with your permission I beg to move a short-notice amendment that for sub-clause (*4*) of clause 1, the following be substituted, namely:—"It shall in the first instance remain in force up to the 31st day of March, 1950, but it shall continue in force for such further period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate three years if the Provincial Legislature by a resolution or by successive resolutions approves of such continuance".

Mr. SPEAKER: In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that my office received this short-notice amendment at such a short notice that it was not possible to circulate the amendment. It is desirable that such notices of amendments should be sent earlier so that my office may be able to circulate such short-notice amendments in time.

The motion of Sri A. K. Ghose that for sub-clause (*4*) of clause 1, the following be substituted, namely:—"It shall in the first instance remain in force up to the 31st day of March, 1950, but it shall continue in force for such further period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate three years if the Provincial Legislature by a resolution or by successive resolutions approves of such continuance", was then put and agreed to.

The question that clause 1, as amended, do stand part of the Bill, was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 2(*3*), line 15, after the words "a tenant" the words "or sub-tenant" be inserted.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 2, paragraph (*3a*) be omitted.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question before the House is the motion of Sri A. K. Ghose that in clause 2, paragraph (*3a*)——

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I want to say something on this amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am putting the motion to vote now; so you are late.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: I want to know why is it that Government wishes to move this amendment. He has formally moved it, but the House is entitled to know the reason why he has moved it.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you wished to say anything, you should have immediately risen in your seat. I waited for some time before putting the motion to vote, and strictly speaking I cannot permit you to speak at this stage, when I am putting it to the House. Without creating a precedent however, if the honourable mover of the motion agrees to state the reasons, I will allow him to do so.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, paragraph (*3a*) is covered by the subsequent clauses, and that is the reason why it has been omitted here.

At this stage the motion of Sri A. K. Ghose that in clause 2, paragraph (*3a*) be omitted, was then put and agreed to.

The question that clause 2, as amended, do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

The question that clause 3 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 6.

The question that clause 6 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 7.

The question that clause 7 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 8.

The question that clause 8 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 9.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 9(*1*), lines 4 to 7, for the words beginning with "where any sum" and ending with the expression "before such date" the following be substituted, namely:—"Where any sum has been paid on or after the date of commencement of this Act or within a period of six months before such date in respect of the occupation of any premises,".

The motion was put and agreed to.

The question that clause 9, as amended, do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 10.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 10, line 4, for the word "leased" the word "let" be substituted.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The question that clause 10, as amended, do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 12.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that in paragraph (*a*) of clause 12, line 1, for the word "the" the word "any" be substituted.

I beg to move that in paragraph (*a*) of clause 12, line 1, after the words "have been" the words "or are" be inserted.

I beg to move that in the proviso (*i*) to clause 12, line 5, for the italicised word "*and*" the word "and" be substituted.

With your permission I beg to move the short-notice amendment that in lines 3 to 5 of clause 12 for the words "at such amount as having regard to the provisions of this Act and the circumstances of the case" the words "of any premises at such amount as having regard to the provisions of this Act and the circumstances of the case including the municipal rates, taxes or cesses payable in respect of such premises" be substituted.

The motions were then put and agreed to.

The question that clause 12, as amended, do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 13.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, I beg to move that in the proviso to clause 13, line 4, for the word "and" the word "or" be substituted.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The question that clause 13, as amended, do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: Inasmuch as a large number of short-notice amendments have been given by the Chief Whip of the Government Party and it is necessary that those amendments should be circulated to the members before they are considered, I do adjourn the House till tomorrow at 3-45 p.m.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 4-20 p.m. till 3-45 p.m. on Thursday, the 4th March, 1948, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 4th March, 1948 at 3-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Sri ASHUTOSH MALLICK) in the Chair, 6 Hon'ble Ministers and 52 members.

(Unstarred Question No. 1 was called.)

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, as the Hon'ble Premier is unavoidably held up elsewhere, the question may be held over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there be no supplementary question, then there is no need of holding it up.

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOUDHURY: Yes, Sir, there are supplementary questions to be put.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, as there are supplementary questions to be put and the Hon'ble Premier is unavoidably held up elsewhere, the question may please be allowed to be held over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is held over.

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

The West Bengal Premises Rent Control (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1947, as reported by the Select Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have done up to clause 13. Clause 14, amendment No. 17, Sri A. K. Ghose.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, as the House is aware there are several vital short-notice amendments to this Bill. Government want some time to examine those amendments more carefully. In the circumstances Government do not propose to continue with this Bill today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think it is the intention of the House not to take up this Bill today. Next item.

The West Bengal Repealing and Amending Bill, 1948.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I beg to introduce the West Bengal Repealing and Amending Bill, 1948.

(Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Repealing and Amending Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration.

Sir, this is a formal Bill and in the statement of objects and reasons, reasons are stated why this Bill is necessary. It is some sort of a clearance of law's dead letters. Those which have become superfluous or redundant go out and in the columns are set forth very precisely how those Acts which are sought to be repealed or amended had to be repealed and as a consequence of

what other enactments or for what other reasons. I do not suppose, Sir, the House will require any speech on this subject: It is plain enough and I commend this for the acceptance of the House.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

The question that clause 3 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 4.

The question that clause 4 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

First Schedule.

The question that the First Schedule do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Second Schedule.

The question that the Second Schedule do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the Preamble do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Repealing and Amending Bill, 1948, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next item.

The West Bengal Expiring Laws Bill, 1948.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I beg to introduce the West Bengal Expiring Laws Bill, 1948.

(Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: I beg to move that the West Bengal Expiring Laws Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration.

As mentioned in the statement of objects and reasons, the ordinances shown in the schedule to the Bill, which were enacted and continued in operations by the Bengal Ordinances (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1947, for a period of six months and further continued for a period of six months by notification under the said Act, will expire on the 16th March and, Sir, that will give rise to an anomaly. The entire laws relating to the provisions which are given in the schedules, namely, the Bengal Molasses Control Ordinance, 1946, the Calcutta Rent Ordinance, the Bengal Jute Mills Ordinance (Temporary Provisions), 1946—all these will then be in

abeyance. Therefore, Sir, it has become necessary to continue the life of these Bills. Otherwise, the entire laws relating to rent control will suffer a breakdown. The House is aware, Sir, that we are considering the main Bill for rent control, and for technical reasons there is no possibility of that Bill being put through or becoming an Act within the date line of 16th March for this Bill will require the assent of the Governor-General and the margin of time left will not enable this Bill to be put through as an Act by that time. Therefore it has become necessary to continue the existing law beyond the 16th of March, 1948. It is proposed, Sir, to give it a lease of life till the 16th March, 1949, with the proviso that when the Rent Control Bill is finally passed by this House and becomes law then this Bill —rather this Act—will come to an end, and a provision to that effect is being incorporated in the main Rent Control Bill. That is why this matter is of some urgency and this is in the interest of the public who will continue to get the protection of the Rent Control Ordinance. It is in that view, Sir, I move, this motion for the acceptance of the House and I hope that as a measure of urgency this will be accepted and continued until the House has given mature consideration for the Bill which is intended to be put rather permanently on the Statute Book.

Shaik MOHAMAD RAFIQUE: The Hon'ble Minister has not made it clear whether this Bill which practically extends the life of the three ordinances by two years will be inoperative as soon as the three measures are enacted. The Hon'ble Minister should have provided a clause here just to the effect that as soon as these ordinances are transformed into Acts, this Bill will have no effect. Supposing in the Rent Control Bill the repealing provision is deleted. The effect will be that this Bill before the House and the Bills to take the place of the ordinances will run parallel together. Sir, some sort of provision should be made here that as soon as these ordinances are passed by the Assembly into Acts, this Bill will have no effect.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: My honourable friend will notice that a repealing clause is provided in the Rent Control Bill and there the name of this particular Act will be inserted and by virtue of this House passing the Rent Control Bill into an Act this Act will become a dead letter by virtue of that repealing clause. As I have pointed out, I invite my friend's attention to the repealing clause in the Rent Control Bill which is under the consideration of the House. Now as soon as that Rent Control Bill has been passed with the repealing clause inserting the name of this Act, namely, the Calcutta Rent Ordinance, 1946, this Act will cease to be in operation along with the passing of that Bill into an Act and therefore no question of two Acts being in existence simultaneously will arise. If my friend will kindly look at the repealing clause of that Bill carefully, namely, clause 40, it will, I think make matters clear to him.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar that the West Bengal Expiring Laws Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

The question that clause 3 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Schedule.

The question that the Schedule do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the Preamble do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sri NIHARENDU DUTT-MAZUMDAR: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Expiring Laws Bill, 1948, as settled in the Assembly be passed. Sir, I hope I need hardly make a reply here. Because hardly any point has been raised and I do hope, Sir, that this legacy of stop-gap legislation with which we are saddled will be removed with the bringing into existence of the well-considered statutes for which the present Government has got a programme and which will be placed before the House, and the House will then have every opportunity to consider them fully and taking a long range view to put them on the Statute Book as a regular enacted law. I am very sorry, Sir, that I have to come before this House and ask this House to pass into laws and give a long lease of life to this unfortunate legacy of bad laws which we have inherited from the past.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Niharendu Dutt-Mazumdar that the West Bengal Expiring Laws Bill, 1948, as settled in the Assembly be passed was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 4-12 p.m. till 3-45 p.m. on Friday, the 5th March, 1948, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 5th March, 1948, at 3-45 p.m.

PRESENT :

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Sri ISWAR DAS JALAN) in the Chair, 7 Hon'ble Ministers and 52 Members.

STARRED QUESTION No. 7.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, the question may be held over on account of the fact that the Premier is unavoidably absent.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1.

Sri ANNADA PROSAD CHOUDHURY: Sir, this question was held over yesterday. Shall I take it to be held over till Monday next because I shall not be here tomorrow?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The West Bengal Private Forests Bill, 1948.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয় আমি প্রস্তাব করি যে the West Bengal Private Forests Bill, 1948, এখানে আলোচনার জন্য উপস্থিত করা হোক।

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister will please move the motion in the language in which the motion is printed.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: Sir, I beg to introduce the West Bengal Private Forests Bill, 1948.

(Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.)

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, this Bill was circulated to the members of the House day before yesterday and we were expected to send in our amendments by twelve noon today. It was not possible for many members to send in amendments in time. I must confess that I was not able to hand over my amendment before 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Will you please permit me to move those amendments on the floor of the House? That is with regard to myself.

Sir, it has become a chronic habit with the Government to circulate the Bills just before one or two days of their being taken up in the House. There is a statutory time for members to study the Bills, clause by clause, and suggest amendments. That right and privilege of the members are being consistently ignored by the Government, and I seek your protection on the subject.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, this Bill was circulated on 3rd March and members were asked to submit the amendments by 12 noon today. The reasons

which prompted the Government to bring this Bill before the House in this session are obvious. It is true that we are not able to give as much time for the purpose of giving notices of amendments as is required under the rules, but the fact remains that in spite of our best efforts we could not proceed with this Bill methodically as we desired, the reason being that there are so many Bills to be brought before the House for the purpose of enactment that it was impossible to give sufficient time for notice.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons the Minister has stated that the Governor's Proclamation under section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935, having been revoked on the 24th April, 1946, the Bengal Private Forests Act, 1945, will cease to have effect on the expiry of two years from the date of revocation unless sooner repealed or re-enacted by an Act of the Legislature. But I do not think that heavens would fall if members were allowed two or three days more or even the statutory period of seven days before the consideration of the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Bill is not taken up today, from the 8th March onwards the whole of the next three weeks will be taken up by cut motions and if we have to give time, this Bill will have to be taken up after the cut motions are disposed of. I have already stated and I repeat again that more time should be given to the members and that rules should be observed as far as possible. Suspension of rules should not be the rule but an exception, and I hope Government will see to that.

So far as the present Bill is concerned, I shall permit Janab Khuda Bukhsh to move short-notice amendments if he so desires and we shall now proceed with the Bill.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Private Forests Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, this Bill was a Governor's Act and has been in operation in our province for a long time. Sir, I have gone through the Bill and given it the consideration that I could, but I find that in the clause where the Government proposes to levy a cess in proportion to the acreage, I have not been able to understand how the Government proposes to levy the cess on all plots. The plots will be of variable sizes. There will be plots of five hundred acres each as also of one hundred acres. Government only proposes to have a cess levied to cover the expenses of the various officers and their staff. But the salaries of officers and their staff being almost a constant figure, I should like to have that figure bear a proportion to the amount of the cess to be levied. I should also like to have an explanation as to how the Government proposes to bring about a parity in the levy of cesses for two contiguous plots of varying sizes.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: এখন প্রতি একরে যে প্রকার ব্যবস্থা আছে সেইরূপ থাকাই আমার মতে সমীচীন।

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra Naskar that the West Bengal Private Forests Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration, was then put and agreed to

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 3.

The question that clause 3 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 4.

The question that clause 4 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 5.

The question that clause 5 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 6.

The question that clause 6 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 7.

The question that clause 7 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 8.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 8(*3*)(*a*), line 2, after the words "rate of the interest" the words "if any" be inserted.

Sir, here this clause contemplates giving loans to persons adversely affected by the operation of section 4 or sub-section (*2*) of section 6 or section 7 or sub-section (*6*) of section 10 or sub-section (*2*) of section 25. Here the Government feel that a person may be adversely affected inasmuch as his income may suffer owing to any temporary reduction of income. But here, Sir, when they feel that to such persons loans should be advanced by Government to meet their obligations in regard to compensation and other things, they also provide for the amount of the loan that should be granted and the rate of interest that should be charged. I suggest that when the Government admit that the man is suffering owing to no fault of his—owing to the action of the Government—for the better afforestation of the country, which is to the country's good but which is bad to a particular person inasmuch as he may have to suffer financially for the loss of income, the loan should be interest-free. Indeed, Sir, if you would notice two or three lines below—in sub-section (*4*)—you would find Government say: "Subject to rules made under this Act all loans granted under sub-section (*1*), all interests, if any." Here Government feel that there may be persons in whose cases circumstances would justify the Government not to charge any interest at all. That is why they have provided "all interests, if any", but in the absence of the words "if any" in the main clause, this will become inoperative. So, I suggest that when Government themselves provide for "all interests, if any", meaning that there may be such cases of loans where interest will not be charged or where it will not be justifiable to charge any interest, they should have protection in the main clause where the words "if any" should be inserted which will not take away the meaning of the clause or there will not be any other implication. It will be a simple thing and it will be intelligible to all the people who are called upon to administer this Act—the amount of the loan that should be granted and the rate of interest, if any.

Sir, I suggest that this amendment be accepted by the Government.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: যে প্রস্তাব উনি করিলেন সেটা accept করা সম্ভব নয়,—তাই আমি সেটা গ্রহণ করতে পারি না।

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that in clause 8(*3*)(*a*), line 2, after the words "rate of the interest" the words "if any" be inserted, was then put and lost.

The question that clause 8 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 9.

The question that clause 9 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 10.

The question that clause 10 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 11.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in clause 11(*3*), in lines 5 to 7, for the words "be divided in equal shares between the Provincial Government and the owner of the land" the words "after recovery of the management charges, be made over to the owner of the land" be substituted.

Sir, here it contemplates that when the Government have afforested private lands and when all the expenses incurred in such afforestation of private lands have been recovered by Government, Government propose to cultivate or keep in possession all the afforested lands as *bhag chashis* on half and half basis. I suggest that Government have achieved their object in afforestation and when such object has been achieved, in the absence of any principle of nationalisation or in the absence of any principle of State acquirement of land, when private ownership is admitted by Government, the ownership of the forest should vest in the owner. Sir, I think that if the Government by the operation of this sub-clause of clause 11 were to keep possession of the afforested land, it will be tantamount to forfeiture of the private person's land. Afforestation is in the larger interest of the country and we welcome afforestation by Government and Government will be entitled to take hold of or take possession of any land that will be found suitable by the Government for afforestation, being contiguous to other forests, but, after afforestation has been achieved and all the expenses incurred thereon have been recovered, the land should be restored to its owner.

Sir, with these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: I oppose the amendment.

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that in clause 11(*3*), in lines 5 to 7, for the words "be divided in equal shares between the Provincial Government and the owner of the land" the words "after recovery of the management charges, be made over to the owner of the land" be substituted, was then put and lost.

The question that clause 11 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 12.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in clause 12(*2*), line 5, the words "and shall not be questioned in any Court" be omitted.

Here the Bill says, "An appeal shall lie from every order passed under sub-section (*1*) to the Commissioner of the Division if it is presented within thirty days from the date of such order and the decision of the Commissioner on such appeal shall be final and shall not be questioned in any Court".

Here this clause takes away even the right of the Hon'ble the High Court of West Bengal to question any decision of the Commissioner of a Division. The Commissioner of a Division is not a judicial officer. He is only promoted from the I.C.S., the *subjunta* steel frame of the administration usually, Sir, and where a finding involves a question of fact or a question of law, I suggest that the Hon'ble the High Court should be given jurisdiction to question the finding of the Commissioner of the Division who after all is not an infallible person and whose knowledge of law cannot be compared to a judicial officer's knowledge of law. Therefore, I suggest the words "shall not be questioned in any Court" be omitted.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: I oppose the amendment.

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that in clause 12(2), line 5, the words "and shall not be questioned in any Court" be omitted, was then put and lost.

The question that clause 12 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 13.

The question that clause 13 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 14.

The question that clause 14 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 15.

The question that clause 15 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 16.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move that the following proviso be added to clause 16, namely: "Provided that the Regional Forest Officer shall not charge more than 12½ per cent. of gross revenue as the cost of management".

Sir, here the Government have left it delightfully vague as to the amount that will be permissible for them to charge as the cost of management. We know, Sir, that Government officers are very highly paid and their establishment charges are higher than a private zemindari office, and therefore in order that the man whose land has been taken or whose land has been notified as a controlled forest is not made to suffer on account of the administrative cost of Government, I beg to provide that 12½ per cent., which is allowed by Government to the zemindars when they submit their returns in respect of agricultural income-tax, should be the highest that can be paid as cost of their management and cost of collection. Sir, I say that Government should not be entitled to any more than what they would be prepared to give to a private zemindar. If that is not expressly provided here, I am afraid Government will be charging much more, because they will show to the owner of the private forest that here are the Government officers—a highly paid staff—and lot of other overhead charges and the cost of management is so much, and under the Act that poor person will have to pay so much. Therefore, I suggest that there should be a maximum limit set, so that the Forest Officer may not charge any more than 12½ per cent. which Government themselves agree should be the cost of collection and cost of management.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: আমি এই amendment গ্রহণ করিতে পারি না।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: On a point of privilege, Sir. During the discussion of the Bengal Security Bill, on a point of privilege, I submitted to you that members are entitled to hear from the Hon'ble Minister who pilots a Bill the reasons and explanations as to why he cannot accept a particular amendment, but I have been noticing here that the Hon'ble Minister on two or three occasions when Janab Khuda Bukhsh moved his amendments simply rose on his seat and said: "I accept it or reject it". without any reason or explanation. So, I seek your protection, because I consider this a very valuable and precious privilege of the members to know reasons and explanations as to how an amendment cannot be accepted. I would, therefore, request you to request the Hon'ble Minister to have the courtesy to give some reply to us as to why he cannot accept an amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is in the discretion of the Hon'ble Minister to state reasons or not I have no power to compel him to do so. So far as the Hon'ble Minister is concerned, he will exercise his discretion as to whether he should give any reasons.

Janab ABUL HASHEM: That is the legal aspect of things, but I requested him to have the courtesy to give us a reply. If he denies that, we have to withdraw our objection because we are helpless and he has got the votes by which he can get through anything. But, Sir, this is highly unfair.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your request has been expressed on the floor of the House and I think the Hon'ble Minister will take due note of it.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: যে amendment উনি করিলেন সেই amendmentটি গ্রহণ করতে পারলাম না। তবে গভর্ণমেণ্ট দেখবে যে জিনিষগুলো সব ঠিক হয়—এবং জনসাধারণেরও সুবিধা হয়।

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that the following proviso be added to clause 16, namely: "Provided that the Regional Forest Officer shall not charge more than 12½ per cent. of gross revenue as the cost of management", was then put, and a division taken with the following result:—

NOES—35.

Bandopadhaya, Sri Pramatha Nath
Banerjee, Sri Sibnath.
Banerjee, Sri Susil Kumar.
Barman, The Hon'ble Sri Mohini Mohan.
Basu, Sri Hemanta Kumar.
Bhandari, Sri Charu Chandra.
Bhattacharyya, Sri Shyamapada.
Bose, Sri Satish Chandra.
Chakravarty, Sri Satish Chandra.
Choudhury, Sri Annada Prosad.
Das, Srijukta Bina.
Das, Sri Radha Nath.
Das Gupta, Sri Khagendra Nath.
Dass, Sri Kanailal.
De, Sri Kanai Lal.
Dolui, Sri Harendra Nath.
Ganguli, Sri Bepin Behari.
Ghose, Sri A. K.
Gomes, Mr. D.
Gupta, Sri J. C.
Haldar, Sri Kuber Chand.
Mahanty, Sri Charu Chandra.
Majhi, Sri Nishapati.
Mal, Sri Iswar Chandra.
Mallick, Sri Ashutosh.
Mandal, Sri Annadaprasad.
Mandal, Sri Bankubehari.
Mookerjee, The Hon'ble Sri Kalipada.
Naskar, The Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra.
Panja, The Hon'ble Sri Jadabendra Nath.
Pramanik, Sri Rajani Kanta.
Ray, Sri Kamal Krishna.
Ricketts, Mrs. E. M.
Roy, The Hon'ble Dr. Bidhan Chandra.
Roy, Sri Jajneswar.

AYES—12.

Abdur Rahman, Janab A. F. M.
Abul Hashem, Janab.
Husan Ara Begum, Janab.
Khuda Bukhsh, Janab Md.
Mahammad Sayeed Mia, Janab.
Mohamad Rafique, Shaik, J. P.
Mohammad Sharif Khan, Janab.
Molla Mohammad Abdul Halim, Janab
Mudassir Hossain, Janab.
Muhammad Idris, Janab.
Muhammad Siddique, Dr. Syed.
Serajuddin Ahammad, Janab.

The Ayes being 12 and the Noes 35, the motion was lost.

The question that clause 16 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Clause 17.

The question that clause 17 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 18.

The question that clause 18 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 19.

The question that clause 19 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 20.

The question that clause 20 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 21.

The question that clause 21 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 22.

The question that clause 22 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 23.

The question that clause 23 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to

Clause 24

The question that clause 24 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 25.

The question that clause 25 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 26.

The question that clause 26 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 27.

The question that clause 27 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 28.

The question that clause 28 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 29.

The question that clause 29 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 30.

The question that clause 30 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 31.

The question that clause 31 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 32.

The question that clause 32 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 33.

The question that clause 33 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 34.

The question that clause 34 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 35.

The question that clause 35 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 36.

The question that clause 36 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 37.

The question that clause 37 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 38.

The question that clause 38 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 39.

The question that clause 39 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 40.

The question that clause 40 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 41.

The question that clause 41 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 42.

The question that clause 42 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 43.

The question that clause 43 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 44.

The question that clause 44 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 45.

The question that clause 45 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 46.

The question that clause 46 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 47.

The question that clause 47 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 48.

The question that clause 48 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 49.

The question that clause 49 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 50.

The question that clause 50 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 51.

The question that clause 51 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 52.

The question that clause 52 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to

Clause 53.

The question that clause 53 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 54.

The question that clause 54 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 55

The question that clause 55 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 56.

The question that clause 56 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 57.

The question that clause 57 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 58.

The question that clause 58 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 59.

The question that clause 59 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 60.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move that in clause 60(*4*), line 1, for the words "two months" the words "one year" be substituted.

Sir, this sub-clause deals with any surplus that may be left over after meeting all the charges, namely, the money payable to the Regional Forest Officer or the money payable in respect of the forest produce, or the money to be paid to Forest Officers in respect of other charges. If there is a surplus, the surplus has to be claimed by the owner of the forest within two months from the date of the sale and by the failure to do so the money shall be forfeited to the Crown. Sir, here it lays down that any money that is in surplus shall have to be taken away from the Regional Forest Officer within two months, but in cases where the surplus will be so small that it will not be worthwhile for the owner to go to the district headquarters or the forest headquarters to get the money, he may think that it would be more convenient and profitable to leave it to the Forest Officer until such time as the money accumulated is such that a search in connection with the withdrawal of the money is justified. But as the Bill provides, if it is not claimed within two months the money will be forfeited to the Crown, that is, the money will go to the Provincial Government. Sir, in no other cases the money lying with the Government is time-barred within two months. Then why in this case the money lying with the Government shall be deemed to be forfeited if such claims are not realised within two months?

Sir, I feel that we shall be doing an injustice if we do not give opportunities to poor owners of forests to claim the surplus until it has accumulated to such an amount that they may feel that they can go to the district headquarters or the forest headquarters to claim it. Sir, the withdrawal of money from Government coffers involves a lot of expenses and delay and therefore the owner of the money may not feel justified or may not feel it desirable that he should go through all the technicalities and formalities that are attended with the withdrawal of the money when the amount is very small, and he may let it grow until such time when it becomes large enough for him. Therefore I hope the Government will accept my amendment and extend the period to one year after which the Government might be justified in forfeiting the money to the Crown.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: আমরা তাড়াতাড়ি যাতে কাজ হয়, তার জন্য চেষ্টা করেছিলাম। তবে honourable member যদি চান যে এক বৎসর সময় দেওয়া হোক, আমি তাতে রাজি আছি।

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that in clause 60(*4*), line 1, for the words "two months" the words "one year" be substituted, was then put and agreed to.

The question that clause 60 as amended do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 61.

The question that clause 61 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 62.

The question that clause 62 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 63.

The question that clause 63 do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 64.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: Sir, with your permission I beg to move a short notice amendment that in clause 64 the words "in its application to West Bengal" be omitted.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, he has not explained why he is moving this short notice amendment. We expect that he should explain why he is doing so.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: "In its application to West Bengal" is superfluous. So I thought that it needs no explanation, specially to my friend Mr. Khuda Bukhsh.

The motion of Sri A. K. Ghose that in clause 64 the words "in its application to West Bengal" be omitted was then put and agreed to.

The question that clause 64, as amended, do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, I beg to move that, in the Preamble, for the word "Crown", wherever it occurs, the words "Provincial Government" be substituted.

I move this amendment with full knowledge that the 1935 Act prescribes that all this should be done in the name of the Crown, but, Sir, we are under an impression that we have achieved independence. I was thinking whether or not we would take up the relevant sections of the 1935 Act and move the relevant authorities to have them so changed to suit the altered conditions of independence. Here the property shall certainly not vest in the Crown, which no more exists in respect of the free province of West Bengal but this nomenclature and technicality exists. Here when they say Crown they certainly mean the Provincial Government in which the property shall vest. So this amendment is more to seek an elucidation as to what the legal position is whether we could or could not alter the relevant sections of the Act to suit the altered conditions of independence and whether this word "Crown" could be dispensed with and the words "Provincial Government" be inserted in its place.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: Indian Dominion যখন হয়েছে তখন আমরা Crownকে একেবারে বাদ দিতে পারি না।

Janab ABUL HASHEM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Janab Khuda Bukhsh has moved an amendment to the Preamble to the effect that wherever the word "Crown" occurs should be substituted by the words "Provincial Government". I think he is suffering under a general misunderstanding that has been so successfully created by my friends sitting on my opposite, namely, that we have achieved complete independence. During the general discussion of the budget criticising the Hon'ble Sri Nalini Ranjan Sarker's assertion in his statement that we have achieved complete independence, I remarked that so far as we are concerned we could not agree with his view that Dominion Status and complete independence were one and the same thing. But being conscious of the fact that we have not yet achieved complete independence my friends sitting on our opposite have been persistently trying to deceive us and perhaps deceive themselves also. But in this Bill which must come within the four corners of the existing law they are forced by circumstances to insert that precious word "Crown" instead of "Provincial Government", otherwise they will land themselves into great difficulties. I think that we should have honesty and courage to see things in their realities and should not in any case deceive ourselves and others. So I think that the word "Crown" which has been mentioned there is the proper word and in the present circumstances it cannot be substituted by anything like Provincial Government.

So, I am sorry. I cannot agree with Mr. Khuda Bukhsh, and here I am in full agreement with the Government that the word "Crown" should be there so that it may correspond with realities and may not deceive anybody.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: May I draw the attention of Janab Khuda Bukhsh to section 175(2) of the Adaptation Order of the Government of India Act, 1935?

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: That is what I wanted to make out.

Sri A. K. GHOSE: It is clear that we have accepted the Government of India Act as adapted by the Provincial Constitution Order, 1947. We have no right to go beyond that so long as we are sitting in this House.

The motion of Janab Md. Khuda Bukhsh that for the word "Crown" wherever it occurs the words "Provincial Government" be substituted was then put and lost.

The question that the Preamble do stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the West Bengal Private Forests Bill, 1948, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: Sir, at the outset I drew your attention to clause 17 which provides that cesses shall be levied on private forests to cover the expenses of the forest staff, etc., and, Sir, at the outset I gave the Hon'ble Minister an opportunity to look up the section and prepare his reply. I wanted that he should reply as to how he proposes to levy those cesses and without any disparity between areas and areas. I mentioned it at the outset in order that the Hon'ble Minister, who does not seem to have studied the Bill with as much scrutiny and care as he should have, may be prepared to offer his remarks and make his replies, but, Sir, I find that he is formally moving the Bill for the acceptance of the House without elucidating the points I needed elucidation on. Sir, this is very important. This cess should have parity and cess on one particular plot should not be heavier than on another particular plot. I can understand the point of the Government when they want to levy cess to cover their expenses but such cess should not vary with different plots. I wanted to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to how he proposes to levy this cess so that parity could be maintained. I hope, Sir, that you will request the Hon'ble Minister to clarify as to how he proposes to do it.

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR: এই প্রসঙ্গে আমার বক্তব্য এই যে পশ্চিম বঙ্গে সমগ্র বনভূমির পরিমাণ ২,৭৪২,৯৭৯ একর। ইহার মধ্যে বে-সরকারী বনের পরিমাণ ১,০৪৪,৪৮০ একর। বর্দ্ধমান, বীরভূম, বাঁকুড়া ও মেদিনীপুর জিলায় বে-সরকারী বনের পরিমাণ যথাক্রমে ৩৯,০৪০; ৩৯,৩৬০; ৩৩২,৯৬০; এবং ২৭৬,৪৮০ একর। তদুপরি এই চারিটি জিলার বে-সরকারী বনের অধিকাংশ মালিক ও প্রজাগণ উত্তরোত্তর বন কাটিয়া নষ্ট করিয়া চলিয়াছেন; কিন্তু সঙ্গে সঙ্গে সেই স্থানে বন সৃষ্টি করিবার চেষ্টা আদৌ করেন নাই। আপনারা সকলেই জানেন যে যেখানে বনের আবরণ থাকে, সেখানে বৃষ্টির জল মাটি ধুইয়া ক্ষয় করিতে পারে না; তাহা ছাড়া উহাতে ভূপৃষ্ঠে জলপ্রবাহের সাম্য রক্ষিত হয় এবং গাছের শিকড়ও মাটি আটকাইয়া রাখে।

Janab MD. KHUDA BUKHSH: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কি বলছেন শুনতে পাচ্ছি না।

The Hon'ble Sri HEM CHANDRA NASKAR : বন ধ্বংস হেতু উক্ত জেলাগুলিতে মাটি ক্ষয়প্রাপ্ত হওয়ায় বহু বড় বড় ভূখণ্ডের উৎপাদিকা শক্তি নষ্ট হইয়াছে। ক্রমাগত বন নষ্ট হওয়ার দরুণ কোনও কোনও অংশে জলপ্লাবন ও অনাবৃষ্টির সম্ভাবনা বাড়িয়াই চলিয়াছে। তাহা ছাড়া স্থানীয় জনসাধারণের গৃহ নির্ম্মাণের উপযোগী ও জ্বালানী কাঠ সরবরাহ সুকঠিন হইয়া দাঁড়াইয়াছে। যে সোমর

সারের জন্য ব্যবহৃত হইতে পারিত, তাহা জ্বালানী কাঠের অভাবে পোড়ান হইতেছে। এই অবাঞ্ছনীয় অবস্থার প্রতিবিধানের উদ্দেশ্যে এবং জনগণের স্বার্থরক্ষা, বে-সরকারী বনের সংরক্ষণ ও উন্নয়ন এবং পতিত জমিতে বন সৃজন দ্বারা মালিক ও চাষীদের এবং দেশের হিতকল্পে Bengal Private Forests Act প্রণীত হইয়াছিল। Government of India Actএর ৯৩ ধারার ঘোষণার (Proclamation) ক্ষমতাবলে মহামান্য গভর্ণর এই আইন প্রণয়ন করিয়াছিলেন। বর্ত্তমান আইন অনুযায়ী ১৯৪৬ খৃষ্টাব্দের ২৪শে এপ্রিল উক্ত ঘোষণাটি প্রত্যাহৃত হওয়ায় ১৯৪৫ খৃষ্টাব্দের Bengal Private Forests Act ঐ তারিখ হইতে দুই বৎসর পর্য্যন্ত বলবৎ থাকিবে। যদি ইহা তৎপূর্ব্বে প্রত্যাহৃত না হয় অথবা ব্যবস্থা পরিষদে অনুরূপ একটি আইন প্রণীত না হয়, তবে আগামী ২৫শে এপ্রিল হইতে এই আইনটি বাতিল হইয়া যাইবে। যে সকল কারণে Governor's Actটী প্রণীত হইয়াছিল সেই সকল কারণ এখনও বর্ত্তমান থাকায় এই Governor's Actএর সমস্ত বিধানসম্বলিত এই আইনটি এই সভা কর্ত্তৃক পাশ করিবার প্রস্তাব করিতেছি। আমার শ্রদ্ধেয় বন্ধুবর্গের অবগতির জন্য খসড়া আইনের প্রধান বিধান-গুলির মূল উদ্দেশ্য আমি এখন বর্ণনা করিতেছি—

(১) যে কোনও notified area তে প্রত্যেক বে-সরকারী বনের মালিককে, তাহার বন পরিচালনার জন্য একটি সুনির্দ্দিষ্ট working plan (অর্থাৎ বিজ্ঞানসম্মত প্রথায় বন সৃজন, বনের ব্যবহার ও পরিচালনার পরিকল্পনা) অনুসরণ করিতে বাধ্য করা হইবে।

(২) খসড়া আইনের ২(১), ৩ এবং ৪ ধারায় কোন মালিকের পক্ষে নিজের খরচে উক্ত বেতনে দক্ষ ও অভিজ্ঞ কর্ম্মচারী নিয়োগ করিয়া working plan প্রস্তুত এবং তদনুসারে কার্য্য করা সম্ভব না হইলে সরকারী Regional Forest Officer ও তাঁহার অধীনস্থ কর্ম্মচারী দ্বারা মালিককে সাহায্য করার ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে। মালিক ও Regional Forest Officerএর মধ্যে পরিকল্পনা বিষয়ে মতানৈক্য ঘটিলে, Appellate Committeeর নিকট আপিল করা চলিবে। সাধারণতঃ এ কমিটির সভাপতি থাকিবেন জিলার Collector; তাহা ছাড়া আরও দুইজন সভ্য থাকিবেন—একজন বন বিভাগের কর্ম্মচারী যিনি অন্ততঃ Deputy Conservator of Forestsএর পদমর্য্যাদাসম্পন্ন এবং অপরটি হইবেন সরকার মনোনীত বে-সরকারী বনের মালিক।

(৩) যে সমস্ত বন সুচারুরূপে এযাবৎ পরিচালিত হইয়া আসিতেছে, তাহাদের পরিচালনার ভার মালিকদের উপরই থাকিবে। তাহাদের কেবলমাত্র Regional Forest Officerএর অনুমোদিত working plan অনুসারে কার্য্য করিতে বাধ্য থাকিতে হইবে এই বনগুলিকে Controlled forests বলা হইবে।

(৪) প্রস্তাবিত ৬ ও ৭ ধারায় working planএর বিধান ক্রমাগত লঙ্ঘনের শাস্তিস্বরূপ অথবা notified areaতে কোনও বে-সরকারী বনের সংরক্ষণ, মালিকের উপর আর রাখিয়া দেওয়া সমীচীন নহে—সরকার এইরূপ বিবেচনা করিলে, বনের পরিচালনার ভার সরকার স্বহস্তে লইয়া নির্দ্দিষ্ট কালের জন্য একজন Regional Forest Officerএর তত্ত্বাবধানে রাখিবেন। এই সকল বনকে vested forests বলা যাইবে। যে ক্ষেত্রে ক্ষুদ্র ক্ষুদ্র মালিকদের যথেষ্ট অর্থবল নাই সেই ক্ষেত্রেও বে-সরকারী বনকে vested forests বলিয়া ঘোষণা করা চলিবে। তাহা ছাড়া কোনও জমি অন্ততঃ তিন বৎসর পতিত থাকিলে এবং উহা বন সৃজনের উপযোগী বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইলে যদি মালিক ঐ জমিতে চাষ করিতে বা Regional Forest Officerএর উপদেশ অনুসারে উহাতে ঘাস জন্মাইতে বা বন সৃজন করিতে অনিচ্ছুক বা অক্ষম হন, তবে প্রস্তাবিত ১১ ধারাতে সরকার উক্ত জমিকে vested forestএ পরিণত করিতে পারিবেন।

(৫) ব্যয় সঙ্কোচের জন্য এবং বিভিন্ন মালিক বিশিষ্ট বনসম্পত্তির সংরক্ষণকল্পে vested forest যাহাতে একই working planএর অন্তর্ভুক্ত করা যায়, খসড়া আইনের ১৫ ধারায় তাহারও ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে।

(৬) প্রস্তাবিত ১৮ ধারায় বর্ণিত সর্তসাপেক্ষে vested forestগুলি অন্যূন ১৫ হইতে ৩০ বৎসর পরে মালিকদিগকে তাহাদের বনভূমি ফিরাইয়া দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে।

(৭) Working plan অবলম্বন করিবার ফলে সাময়িকভাবে আয় কমার দরুণ Controlled অথবা vested forestএর মালিক কষ্ট পাইতেছেন এরূপ বিবেচিত হইলে প্রস্তাবিত ৮ ধারা-নির্দিষ্ট বিধান অনুযায়ী তাহাকে ঋণ দিবার ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে।

(৮) Regional Forest Officer এবং তাঁহার কর্ম্মচারীদের খরচ বাবদ প্রথম ১০ বৎসরের ব্যয় সরকার বহন করিবেন এবং পরে প্রস্তাবিত ১৭নং ধারা অনুযায়ী একটি cess ধার্য্য করিয়া উহা আদায় করিয়া লইবেন। পশ্চিম বঙ্গের সকল বনের মালিক cess দিলে বৎসরে প্রতি একরে এক হইতে দেড় আনা পর্য্যন্ত cessএর হার হইবে বলিয়া অনুমান করা যায়। উপযুক্ত ক্ষেত্রে cess মকুব করার ব্যবস্থাও করা হইয়াছে।

(৯) Indian Forest Act, 1927এর ৩৫, ৩৬, ৩৭ ও ৩৮নং ধারা, যাহাতে বে-সরকারী বন ও জমি কিয়ৎপরিমাণে নিয়ন্ত্রণ করা সম্ভবপর হইত, তাহা এই খসড়া আইনে বাতিল করার ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে এবং ৩৮নং ধারার অনুরূপ একটি (৫৯নং) ধারা বর্ত্তমান খসড়ায় সংযোজিত হইয়াছে, যাহাতে মালিকদের অনুরোধে সরকার বন ও পতিত জমি vested forestভাবে পরিচালনে সক্ষম হইতে পারেন।

এই সম্পর্কে ইহা বলা প্রাসঙ্গিক হইবে যে বে-সরকারী বন নিয়ন্ত্রণকল্পে Bengal Private Forests Act, 1945, এ পর্য্যন্ত গড়বেতা থানা ছাড়া সমগ্র মেদিনীপুর জিলা এবং বাঁকুড়া জিলায় বলবৎ করা হইয়াছে। Indian Forest Act এর ৩৭নং ধারা Bengal Private Forest Actএর ৬৩নং ধারায় বাতিল করা হইয়াছে। গড়বেতা থানায় Indian Forest Act এর ৩৭নং ধারা অনুসারে Land Acquisition Actএ বন সৃজনের জন্য জমি সংগ্রহ করা হইতেছে। Indian Forest Act ও Bengal Private Forest Act একই স্থলে প্রয়োগ করা হইলে কোন আইনে চলা হইবে, সে সম্পর্কে গোলযোগ হইতে পারে, Legislative Department ইহা বলায় গড়বেতা থানায় Bengal Private Forest Act বলবৎ করা হয় নাই।

বৈজ্ঞানিকদের মতে প্রত্যেক দেশেই উহার সমগ্র আয়তনের অন্ততঃ শতকরা ২০ ভাগে বন থাকা অত্যাবশ্যক; পশ্চিম বঙ্গে বর্ত্তমানে বনভূমির পরিমাণ শতকরা ১৫ ভাগ। ইহার মধ্যে ধ্বংসোন্মুখ বে-সরকারী বনের পরিমাণও কম নহে। কৃষিভূমির উৎপাদিকা শক্তি বৃদ্ধি করিয়া কৃষি ও বন সম্পদে এই প্রদেশকে সমৃদ্ধ করিতে হইলে বে-সরকারী বন-নিয়ন্ত্রণ নষ্টপ্রায় বনাংশে পুনরায় বন সৃজন এবং পতিত জমিতেও বন সৃজন করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন।

আশা করি আমি এখন আমার শ্রদ্ধেয় বন্ধুদিগকে এই আইন প্রণয়নের যৌক্তিকতা বিশদভাবে বুঝাইতে সমর্থ হইয়াছি।

The motion of the Hon'ble Sri Hem Chandra Naskar that the West Bengal Private Forests Bill, 1948, as settled in the Assembly, be passed was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 5-12 p.m. till 3-45 p.m. on **Monday the 8th March, 1948, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.**

WBGP-48/9-2022A-350